



SARACINA MALBEC MENDOCINO COUNTY SKID ROW VINEYARD 2010

Vintage Information

Skid Row Vineyard 2010
Production of 493 cases

Varietal Composition

100% Malbec

Bottling Date

June 20, 2012

Technical Data

14.1% alcohol by volume
0.64 gm/100 ml titratable acidity
pH 3.85

Release Date

September 1, 2012

Press

Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, 90 pts

Vineyards

Planted in 1999 and farmed organically from the outset, Skid Row Vineyard is the westernmost block on the Saracina Ranch Vineyards, marked by black clay and gravelly soils at the base of the foothills. The plant material is the original Bordeaux clone 4. It is significant not for what it produces, but for what it doesn't. It is the lowest-yielding commercial Malbec clone available, and on our property typical yields are one and a half tons per acre. It produces concentrated fruit without the need to pick at ultra high sugars.

Harvest

The year 2010 was one of the latest harvests on record. A long, cool season did allow for even ripening, though it was painfully slow. Fortunately, our Malbec crop was so light we were able to achieve optimal ripeness with fully mature tannins. We picked before significant rains arrived on October 13 at a perfect 24.7 brix.

Winemaking and Cooperage

The grapes were harvested by hand, destemmed and gently fed into the fermenter with 50% whole berries. Native yeast fermentation began in earnest seven days later and was managed with two aerative pumpovers per day until dryness. The wine was drained directly to Taransaud barrels, 20% of which were new. Native malolactic fermentation was complete by early January. The wine rested on light lees for 17 months and was then lightly fined and bottled unfiltered on June 20, 2012.

Winemaker Alex MacGregor's Comments

Black garnet colored, the nose on this wine reveals an enticing array of black raspberry, plum, vanilla and tamari notes. The palate is layered and savory, with very sweet, supple tannins framing an elegant, deep, well balanced Malbec crafted for immediate enjoyment and structured enough to ensure mid term ageability. Some call Malbec the "new Merlot," and our soft, sunny California-style Skid Row Malbec fits the bill.