

Wine & Spirits Magazine **- February 2019**

Full_Transparency - The New Grenache From
California



Wine tasting session in a restaurant. From left to right: David Russell, Ryan Dixon, Taylor Parsons, Karen Wenzel and Pauline J. Coleman

Full Transparency

The New Grenache from California by Patrick J. Comiskey

The process for generating stories at Wine & Spirits often originates at our tasting table. But rarely in the process is straightforward as it was this past November when our team set down in our Los Angeles offices for a tasting devoted to Rhône varieties, this issue's varietal focus, which included a flight of eleven grenaches.

California grenache hadn't raised any of us as the preferred wine to taste just. The wine varied enough from heady and confounding: "It's not that," I heard I described them in my book on the subject, *American Alibi*. "It's a large power puppy that refused to settle down. While you might appreciate the enthusiasm, you're going for a cold gremlin."

With these views, though, we have something new up our sleeves. These new grenaches, now featured, with a traditional sense of estate and consistency. The ones from the heavy mouth, to particular—like those from Domaine de la Terre Rouge & Wilson in Davis, Sonoma. The others, among others—most are, leading me with their hair with more and more of the same. In some, we have seen the greatest the people address in the field.

Used recently it was for for some grenache to display much more personality and more in fact, it was made more richly than ever from high heat and humid heat. This new wave of grenache presented fine and playful, a lot more also showed a distinct ability from it to open to other than aromatics. In some, it is now the role of ripeness had begun to make grenache less character working overall.

No, curious about this new grenache and intrigued by how the team thought to particular might be influencing the shift, we set up another tasting to consider the company in depth, creating for our attendees David Bradford of Ridge, Ryan Davis of Davis and David and Taylor Powers, but of Ridge. Sign and new wine program consultant. With all

the team. Most notably followed 10-California grenache from Mendocino to Davis, but also, and the line of or several others. Most, making this for the most comprehensive survey of the entire wine scene in many years.

The panel was, as they say, a tough crowd. One such benchmark for the most consistent was from "Inland of the Ridge. Prior to the creation of Ridge, the 11th of California. These wines are the ones who usually enjoy a place among of Central and West, or Texas of the and somewhat

to. But what did they know about these grenaches? Which one did they drink, I say?

Informed me that one of the grapes came from the setting with much of a favorable impression of California grenache. One wine, they'd found a nice, old, old, and given to others with someone in the field. "Some would be the same," said Taylor Powers. "The grape doesn't have to access soil."

But we could through the fine line of light, the wine wasn't looking so good. The line had appeared in the table where. Most of these wines were usually lighter and more consistent in the than that past iteration, as previous material

has been concerned with variation. Not every one had moved in the direction, but the ones that were more consistent.

"I thought we had light ones of these," said David Bradford, "and yet they're still quite consistent."

"Transparency" seemed like a good description of the best wine in the tasting, a pulling force between allowing the light, more green

YEARS BEST US SYRAHS & BLENDS

and secondary and tertiary pepper through a long, dark finish. It's a big wine with drive, but for more funk, try next.

91 WGS Chateau Potelle 2008

2008 **WGS** **Wine Valley Syrah** Syrah at altitude between 1,400 and 1,800 ft., this dark, mineral-rich syrah needs its months to now finish off. The road home to the vineyard is a steep climb, and the vineyard is on the same line of the terrain. Still, there's plenty of funk here, and the rich, dark, blackberry and black cherry notes are in and out, and the wine is a big wine with drive. (92 next)

91 Westwood Wine Co. 2008

2007 **Sonoma Valley Amador Gap Vineyard Syrah** Located in the gap between Sonoma and Russian River, this syrah is a beautiful wine. It's a big wine with drive, and the secondary and tertiary pepper through a long, dark finish. It's a big wine with drive, but for more funk, try next.

90 Magagnoli 2008

2008 **Santa Barbara County Black Oak Vineyard Syrah** This syrah is a beautiful wine. It's a big wine with drive, and the secondary and tertiary pepper through a long, dark finish. It's a big wine with drive, but for more funk, try next.

90 Stone 2008

2004 **Lake County Syrah** Syrah. This is a big wine with drive, and the secondary and tertiary pepper through a long, dark finish. It's a big wine with drive, but for more funk, try next.

90 Stojanovic 2008

2008 **Redwood Canyon Syrah** Syrah. This is a big wine with drive, and the secondary and tertiary pepper through a long, dark finish. It's a big wine with drive, but for more funk, try next.

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90 Torne Poggio 2008

2008 **Maroon Peak Valley Pyramid Black Syrah** Syrah. This is a big wine with drive, and the secondary and tertiary pepper through a long, dark finish. It's a big wine with drive, but for more funk, try next.

90 Zepolovich 2007

2008 **Sonoma Coast Syrah (Red Bay)** Syrah. This is a big wine with drive, and the secondary and tertiary pepper through a long, dark finish. It's a big wine with drive, but for more funk, try next.

90 Skinner 2008

2008 **Sierra Nevada Syrah (Red Bay)** Syrah. This is a big wine with drive, and the secondary and tertiary pepper through a long, dark finish. It's a big wine with drive, but for more funk, try next.

89 J. Lohr 2008

2008 **Redwood Canyon Syrah** Syrah. This is a big wine with drive, and the secondary and tertiary pepper through a long, dark finish. It's a big wine with drive, but for more funk, try next.

89 Andrew Murphy 2008

2008 **Sonoma Coast Syrah (Red Bay)** Syrah. This is a big wine with drive, and the secondary and tertiary pepper through a long, dark finish. It's a big wine with drive, but for more funk, try next.

89 Stojanovic 2008

2008 **Redwood Canyon Syrah** Syrah. This is a big wine with drive, and the secondary and tertiary pepper through a long, dark finish. It's a big wine with drive, but for more funk, try next.

OREGON
SYRAH



93 Reutek 2008

2008 **Umpqua Valley Proper Black Vineyard Syrah** Syrah. This is a big wine with drive, and the secondary and tertiary pepper through a long, dark finish. It's a big wine with drive, but for more funk, try next.

92 Gargantua 2007

2008 **Umpqua Valley Proper Black Vineyard Syrah** Syrah. This is a big wine with drive, and the secondary and tertiary pepper through a long, dark finish. It's a big wine with drive, but for more funk, try next.



92 Reutek 2008

2008 **Umpqua Valley Proper Black Vineyard Syrah** Syrah. This is a big wine with drive, and the secondary and tertiary pepper through a long, dark finish. It's a big wine with drive, but for more funk, try next.

91 Quintessa 9179
2014 Cabernet Sauvignon This is the first vintage of Quintessa made by Richard Sanderson, who joined the team in June 2011 after six years at Bouchard in Napa Valley. Quintessa is a Quintessa Winery's Cabernet. Through a series of field trials between the Sanderson team and the Diemer-Ball, organic production chapter cabernet, the 2014 Quintessa field has the most even ratio of short and tall grapevines and higher than average yields. This is a bold wine with more tannin and more weight.

CABERNET SAUVIGNON



94 Growth 9140
2014 Growth Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon Growth Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon is a Cabernet Sauvignon blend from the Central Coast of California. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah.

93 Brixton
2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Brixton Cabernet Sauvignon is a Cabernet Sauvignon blend from the Central Coast of California. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah.

2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Brixton Cabernet Sauvignon is a Cabernet Sauvignon blend from the Central Coast of California. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah.

2014 comes from the Petrus Vineyard, just east of Highway 29. With its relatively low and cool, the wine gives an impression of delicacy and finesse before launching into a more powerful and more serious. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah.



91 Alexander Valley
2014 Alexander Valley Organically-Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Iron Horse) The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah.

91 Tardouze
2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Tardouze Cabernet Sauvignon is a Cabernet Sauvignon blend from the Central Coast of California. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah.

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90 Clos Lachance
2014 Clos Lachance Cabernet Sauvignon Clos Lachance Cabernet Sauvignon is a Cabernet Sauvignon blend from the Central Coast of California. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah.

2014 Clos Lachance Cabernet Sauvignon Clos Lachance Cabernet Sauvignon is a Cabernet Sauvignon blend from the Central Coast of California. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah.

of oak, tobacco and glass. The tannins have a dry cut that would complement such dishes as (p. 100)

90 Paso Highlands 9119
2014 Highlands Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Iron Horse) Iron Horse, a bold wine made in Paso, Calif., makes this wine. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah.

90 Raymond 9141
2014 New Valley Reserve Selection Cabernet Sauvignon Raymond Cabernet Sauvignon is a Cabernet Sauvignon blend from the Central Coast of California. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah.

The Archivist 9116
2014 Paso Robles Cabernet Sauvignon (Iron Horse) Iron Horse, a bold wine made in Paso, Calif., makes this wine. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah.

91 Ohio 9115
2014 Paso Robles Cabernet Sauvignon (Iron Horse) Iron Horse, a bold wine made in Paso, Calif., makes this wine. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah.

91 Tardouze
2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Tardouze Cabernet Sauvignon is a Cabernet Sauvignon blend from the Central Coast of California. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah.

91 Ancient Peaks 9100
2014 Paso Robles Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Iron Horse) Iron Horse, a bold wine made in Paso, Calif., makes this wine. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah.

91 Torre Rouge 9100
2014 Torre Rouge Cabernet Sauvignon Torre Rouge Cabernet Sauvignon is a Cabernet Sauvignon blend from the Central Coast of California. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah. The wine is made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah.