



Shale Canyon

2015 Mourvèdre

Estate Bottled - Arroyo Seco
Monterey County

Floral bouquet of violets with dark fruit. Blackberry, plum and blueberry stand out amongst the complex flavors. Structured tannins, with a wisp of smoke and black pepper.

100% Mourvèdre

Aged ~21 months in American Oak.
1/3 new barrels, 2/3 neutral.

Clone: Mourvèdre TCVSB - France

Every small vineyard is unique, and ours is no exception. Located in the upper portion of the Arroyo Seco Canyon, the warmer climate is best suited for growing Bordeaux style and other warm climate grapes. The geology of the site is best exemplified by the bluffs on our label, a huge section of seafloor, heaved up over 600 million years ago, creating the greater canyon and the topography that make our vineyard location one of a kind.

Our vines were initially planted in May 2009. These consisted of potted bench grafts and dormant field finished bench grafts.

Our vineyard soils are predominately Lockwood Shaley Loam with the upgrade areas being predominately Santa Lucia formation soils, the latter being shallow with rock outcroppings. The Lockwood Shaley Loam has 18-30 inches of developed topsoil on the surface, and below lie additional layers interspersed with cobbles and shale which are the leftovers of an ocean bottom deposit. Lockwood Shaley Loam has minimal organic matter, which promotes root formation as the vines hunt for the nutrients they need. The soil has good moisture retention due to the calcium in the shale, yet good drainage due to the cobbles and shale. This allows increased control of vigor by irrigation management. The upgrade Santa Lucia soils, with rock outcroppings help "direct" abundant water to the Lockwood soils and the vines despite the generally low volume of rainfall.

Many rootstocks are suitable for our soils type. However, soils sampling and water quality analysis led the labs to recommend 1103P. This recommendation was augmented by lots of advice from other growers in the area. 1103P is a vigorous rootstock, drought tolerant yet able to withstand "wet feet" when the soil becomes saturated, as it does, from time to time. It is well suited to a combination of controlling fruit quantity and quality with a combination of canopy management and deficit irrigation practices.