

chateau TUMBLEWEED

2022 Dos Amigos Vineyard Graciano

Background:

We've been raving about Juan Alba's grape growing prowess for more than 10 years now. He is truly one of Arizona wine's unsung heroes. Not only is Juan the long-time manager of one of our most important fruit sources (Cimarron Vineyard), but his new Dos Amigos Vineyard is further proof that he is truly a master of Arizona grape farming. This Graciano bottling comes from the first of two picks at Juan's vineyard in 2022. Despite being harvested under 24 Brix, this wine, like last year's, is one of the darkest we've ever made at Chateau Tumbleweed. It stains everything in its path! While the Graciano from Cimarron tends to be slightly lighter in color and heavier in the bright red watermelon, pomegranate and plum notes; the fruit character of Dos Amigos Graciano leans more toward blueberry/blackberry, and the palate is richer and deeper. This is truly a special wine from a special grower – and an interesting contrast to the Graciano from Cimarron Vineyard! Only six barrels produced.

Varietal Composition and Appellation/Fruit Sourcing:

Willcox AVA – Cochise County, AZ

97% Graciano from Dos Amigos Vineyard.

Cochise County, AZ, 4,300 ft. elevation. Harvested Sept. 2nd

1% Tempranillo from Dos Amigos Vineyard.

Cochise County, AZ, 4,300 ft. elevation. Harvested Aug. 31st

1% Tempranillo from Cimarron Vineyard.

Cochise County, AZ, 4,300 ft. elevation. Harvested Aug. 27th

1% Syrah from Sierra Bonita Vineyard.

Graham County, AZ, 4,400 ft. elevation. Harvested Sept. 21st

Sugar at harvest: 23.7 Brix

Cellar Notes:

Destemmed but not crushed to open-top, $\frac{3}{4}$ - and 1.5-ton bins. Lot was left ~25% whole cluster. Inoculated with specially selected yeasts (CVRP, RC212 & VRB). Hand-punched 3-4 times daily. Inoculated with malolactic bacteria (Omega) around 7 Brix. Pressed at dryness after 9 days skin contact. Settled 2 days before barreling.

Aging:

Aged 5 months in 33% 1-year-old French (Damy & Billon cooperages) and 67% neutral oak barrels. Aged another 6 months in 100% neutral oak barrels. Twice raked. Filtered, but unfined.

Stats:

pH: 3.78

TA: 5.5 g/L

RS: <0.10%

Alcohol: 14.0%

Drink now or cellar 6+ years

Production: 149 cases

Winemaker: Joe Bechard

