

chateau TUMBLEWEED

2023 Rhumb Line Vineyard Grenache

Background:

We've loved Arizona Grenache since we started working in the local wine scene back around 2005 and 2006. We see a lot of it these days between our Willy, Ron Bot and Earth Cuckoo blends. But what's been very interesting for us is to watch the reaction to AZ Grenache change over the years. Because it tends to be much lighter in body and color than most other AZ reds, its delicate beauty often got overlooked. But the wine drinking public seems more open to wines of different stripes these days, and last year, a Grenache was one of our fastest sellers! This bottling comes from our friends at Rhumb Line Vineyard, who regularly turn out reds grapes with focused, vibrant and pure fruit characters. This wine has a deep, spicy red fruit on the nose and such a delicate, but vivid palate – it should be obvious why we call this grape “Arizona’s Pinot Noir”! Only four barrels produced.

Varietal Composition and Appellation/Fruit Sourcing:

Willcox AVA – Cochise County, AZ

98% Grenache from Rhumb Line Vineyard.

Cochise County, AZ, 4,300 ft. elevation. Harvested Aug 28th

Sugar at harvest: 24.9 Brix

Cellar Notes:

Destemmed but not crushed to open-top, 1.5-ton bins.
Lot was left ~25% whole-cluster.
Inoculated with specially selected yeasts (Clos, UV43).
Hand-punched 3-4 times daily.
Inoculated with malolactic bacteria (Omega) around 10 Brix.
Pressed at dryness after 11 days skin contact.
Settled 2 days before barreling.

Aging:

Aged 5 months in 25% 2-year-old French (Damy Cooperage) and 75% neutral oak barrels. Aged another 6 months in 100% neutral oak barrels.
Twice racked. Filtered, but unfiltered.

Stats:

pH: 3.90
TA: 5.7 g/L
RS: <0.10%
Alcohol: 14.6%
Production: 99 cases
Drink now or cellar 5+ years
Winemaker: Joe Bechard

