



THREE SAINTS

2005

Cabernet Sauvignon

Santa Ynez Valley

2005 THREE SAINTS CABERNET SAUVIGNON SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

VINTAGE NOTES

Record-setting winter storms beginning in November 2004 and continuing through late May 2005 saw Star Lane receive over 32 inches of rain as opposed to our normal 13! Additionally, several frosts in late March and April had us running our sprinklers (used as frost protection) for 3 to 4 hours each morning, further contributing to the total accumulated water received at the ranch. Needless to say, the soils in the vineyard started at what we call "field capacity," meaning that the entire soil profile was saturated to its maximum water-holding potential. Badly needed, the extremely wet weather leached out several years of salts that had built up in soils during the preceding drought years. The vines started the growing season healthy and happy, enjoyed moderate weather through the spring and set a very good crop in excess of three tons per acre, which is enormous for Star Lane. Occasional heat spells punctuated the otherwise moderate summer months, promoting even, expedient ripening. During a very quick and even veraison we adjusted our crop load down to an average of 2.5 tons to the acre and sailed into a leisurely harvest, making all of our picking decisions based upon ripeness as opposed to weather events. In a word, perfect!

WINEMAKING NOTES

Star Lane Vineyard is located in the eastern end of the Santa Ynez Valley on the southern slope of Ranger Peak. The vineyards are situated in a variety of sheltered canyons with many of the plantings on steep hillsides that range from 900 to 1,500 feet. There are thirty-four different blocks of Cabernet Sauvignon and eleven blocks of Merlot planted at Star Lane Vineyard. Winemaking follows the traditional Bordeaux model, with warm fermentations, a long maceration and quarterly aerated rackings. In each vintage, we carefully select individual blocks that best represent the personality and the quality of this vineyard's unique location.

In 2005, we selected grapes primarily from blocks 33B & C, 28, 29B, 32B and 9D. Approximately 5% Cabernet Franc and 2% Malbec were included for aromatic complexity and to flesh out the mid-palate. This wine was aged for 20 months in 40% new French Oak barrels, fined lightly with egg whites and bottled unfiltered.

TASTING NOTES

Intense aromas of blackberry, dark cherry and graphite are accented by hints of mocha and a haunting sage note. This dense & dark wine offers up juicy flavors of black fruit, wild berry and plum and an intriguing "sauvage" character that is the hallmark of the Star Lane Vineyard. Rich and structured, our 2005 Three Saints Cabernet Sauvignon is delicious presently with your winter meals and will improve with 4 to 5 years of careful cellaring.

After a ten year search throughout California, Jim and Mary Dierberg selected Santa Barbara County as an ideal area to produce world class wines. Three Saints wines are a vivid expression of carefully selected grapes from our vineyards which are located in three of Santa Barbara County's premiere grape growing regions: Santa Ynez Valley, Santa Maria Valley and Santa Rita Hills.

FINISHED WINE

Composition: 93% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc, 2% Malbec

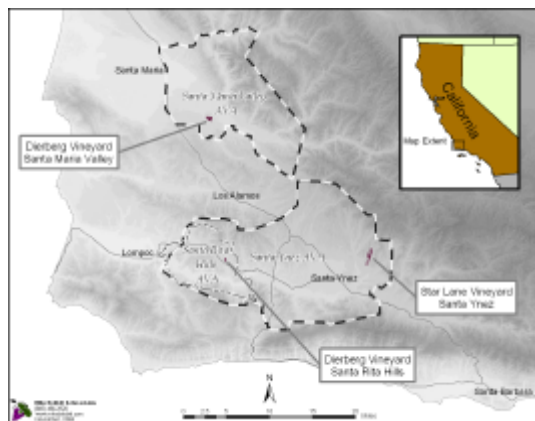
Appellation: Santa Ynez Valley

Alcohol: 14.5%

pH: 3.97

Total Acid: 4.5 g/L

Production: 5500 cases



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