

SPANN VINEYARDS BETSY'S BACKACHER, CALIFORNIA RED



Merlot, Syrah, Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. This intriguing blend was originally produced to revive helpers at the vineyard after a long harvest. Dark red color. Rustic aromas of red cherries and plums with a touch of licorice. Flavors of juicy red cherries and black licorice with no harsh tannins. An eminently enjoyable, richly flavored, fruit-forward wine that is complex yet easy-drinking. The ideal “end of the day, kick back and relax” wine by itself or with a pizza or anything from the grill.

A multi-varietal, multi-vintage blend. It starts with the lighter-bodied, earlier-maturing barrels, gaining richness from the Syrah. From there, small portions of other grape varieties are added to impart complexity. The older-vintage wine in the blend gives complexity and smoothness, while the younger lots add bright fruit aromas and flavors. Some lots are fermented in open top bins, hand punched down, while others were fermented in stainless steel tanks. Full malolactic fermentation for all varietals is completed in oak barrels. All varietals were aged in four to six-year-old French oak barrels.

Nestled among the majestic coastal redwoods of the Mayacamas Mountains, Spann Vineyards, owned by Peter and Betsy Spann, is 40 acres of vines, ponds and animal life cultivated for the benefit of the whole. Mostly this means that they leave it alone, a core principle of sustainable farming. Betsy notes, “...the sustainable activities I practice in the vineyard are pretty passive... I am willing to sacrifice the groomed (I like to say vacuumed) look of many vineyards to achieve a real balance in the land, which actually makes less work for me, not more.” The steeply terraced mountainside vineyard yields small amounts of richly flavored grapes. From this and select cool-climate vineyards throughout Sonoma County they craft limited quantities of European-style blended wines, strongly influenced by Bordeaux, the Rhone Valley and Tuscany. They strive to create food-friendly, unique wines that are memorable in their purity, authenticity, distinctiveness, and enjoyment, and that blend seamlessly into the occasion, whether it be with friends on the patio or accompanying a formal dinner. Whatever the time or place, Spann Vineyards will linger pleasurably on your palate and in your memory.

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Tasting Note:

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Merlot, Syrah, Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon & Cabernet Franc. Rustic aromas of red cherries & plums with licorice; flavors of red cherries & black licorice; richly flavored & complex, yet easy drinking.

Shelf Talker:

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