

# DOMAINE DE LA TERRE ROUGE SYRAH "LES CÔTES DE L'OUEST"



Syrah and Viognier. Beautiful color; aromas are raspberry, smoky, wild gamey, peppery, and cinnamon. Rich, silky, wild raspberry fruit flavors laced with pepper, tar, and olive/herb tones. The wine has a clean purity of Syrah fruit that is reminiscent of many Northern Rhone's. It is very smooth and savory in the mouth with forward fruit flavors and great acid balance.

Terre Rouge means "Red Earth." This vermilion-colored soil is one of the hallmarks of the region. The vineyards are in soils that are largely granite and volcanic-based. High elevation sites up to 3200' contribute to the complexity of the wines. This wine is mainly made from fruit grown at a superb vineyard site in the hills just west of the Amador County line, a few miles from the Mokelumne River in Clements Hills (a new Lodi sub-appellation). The soils at the Clements Hills site are alluvium granite rock (Monpellier & Cometa) and the climate is moderated by Delta cooling. The other sites are a variety of volcanic and granite-based soil. The grapes were lightly crushed and fermented in tanks and irrigated to minimize tannin extraction. Aged 17 months in French oak barrels, 20% of which are new.

Terre Rouge and Easton Wines is located on the West Slope of the Sierra Nevada in Amador County's Shenandoah Valley. An artisan winery established in 1986 by Bill Easton and Jane O'Riordan, they make 30 different wines, most of them very small lots. Each is unique and site-specific with a sense of place all of their own. The Terre Rouge portfolio is composed of wines made from Rhône varietals grown in the rugged and varying terroirs of the region. Winemaker Bill Easton puts his family name, Easton, on their non-Rhône-varietal wines. Easton wines are crafted from varietals that have traditionally worked the best in Amador County and the Sierra Foothills: ancient and old-vine Zinfandel, Barbera, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Sauvignon Blanc. Under the Easton label they also bottle small selections of varietals new to the Sierra Foothills: Pinot Noir and Cabernet Franc. At Terre Rouge and Easton they strive to manage their business and vineyards with as little impact on the environment as possible. The vineyards are farmed sustainably; they mow and plow and don't use chemicals. The style of their red wines emphasizes deep color, balanced flavors, a full middle palate, and a long finish with power and finesse. They gain complexity with age. Their whites are aromatic, flavorful, with nice texture and balanced with good acidity. They also show an amazing mineral sense that is derived from the stony mountain soils. Their goal for the last 25 years has always been to make the finest wines possible that can be placed on a table with the best wines of the world.

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## *Tasting Note:*

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Syrah & Viognier. Aromas of raspberry, smoke, wild game, pepper & cinnamon; rich, silky raspberry flavors with pepper, tar & olive/herb tones; smooth & savory; balanced.

## *Shelf Talker:*

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