

# DOMAINE DE LA TERRE ROUGE ENIGMA, SIERRA FOOTHILLS



Marsanne, Roussanne and Viognier. Aromas suggest almond blossoms, honey and acacia with hints of tangerine and papaya. Flavors are creamy with peach, apple, and quince impressions competing for your attention. The finish is crisp with classic white Rhône stone (peach) fruit pit flavors that intermingle with the subtle mineral tones from this rocky site. Enjoyable young, the wine also gains great complexity with bottle age.

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. Made from fruit harvested from one vineyard site, Suma Kaw, planted in volcanic soil at an elevation of 3,000 feet in Pleasant Valley area of El Dorado County. The vineyard is on a sweeping North slope. This high, cool elevation allows us to let the fruit hang for full flavor development while maintaining proper acidity. The grapes are handpicked into small bins and whole-cluster pressed. Fermentation takes place in older French oak barrels. The wine is bottled the following June.

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 varieties 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 grapes 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 varieties 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 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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Marsanne, Roussanne & Viognier. Aromas of almond blossoms, honey & acacia with tangerine & papaya; flavors of peach, apple & quince; creamy; crisp, mineral finish.

## *Shelf Talker:*

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