

2005 OREGON ROSÉ

TASTING NOTES

Wow! Buy this wine now! – That should be all we say about this wine. This beautiful pink/magenta Rosé is made entirely of Sangiovese grapes harvested from Del Rio Vineyard in Southern Oregon. Inviting aromas are full of fresh pure strawberries, raspberries, cherries, wildflowers and what the French call *petit fruits rouge* with notes of cinnamon and nutmeg. This stunning wine is juicy and quaffable, not overly complex, but full of flavor and pleasure. The 2005 Rosé is a perfect wine with all types of food and will drink wonderfully over the next year.

WINE

The 2005 A to Z Rosé is crafted from one variety, Sangiovese, from the most well-known vineyard in Southern Oregon, Del Rio. These grapes literally fell into our laps during a visit to this vineyard and we jumped at the chance to harvest early a large portion of them for Rosé and hang a smaller portion longer to make some red wine for our Claret. The vineyard is located 36 miles north of the California border and is planted on a beautiful Southwest facing slope composed of large oval river rocks. Daytime temperatures in the summer can reach 100 degrees, while the nights always fall back to the 40s. (*Perfect growing weather for bolder reds.*) Harvested just shy of peak red wine ripeness to retain some brighter acidity and aromas and flavors of more red fruits, the grapes were destemmed, crushed and left to sit from one to three days. When we thought the juice had seen enough extraction from the skins, we pressed the grapes then settled the juice overnight. The juice was racked to stainless steel tanks and a small percentage of French oak barrels for fermentation for 6 months. All malolactic fermentation was blocked to retain brightness and juiciness. Truly unique to Oregon and to A to Z, this wine is the first Sangiovese Rosé *EVER* produced in Oregon and we think it is downright killer. 2,450 -750 ml bottle cases were made.

VINTAGE

Cold, wet weather made for a late budbreak and flowering. Mildew threatened into July. Horrible shatter translated into very low yields for two years in a row now. A cooler summer than normal, but some hotter periods towards the end of August and beginning of September. Picking did not begin until early October but was interrupted by a bit of rain and cold and finished well into November under beautiful skies. Consequently these are some of the best wines we have seen for years.

A to Z

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