

# QUIVIRA

VINEYARDS  
*Intentional wines, naturally.*

## 2017 Wine Creek Ranch Grenache

DRY CREEK VALLEY | SONOMA COUNTY

Wine Creek Ranch's terroir in the Dry Creek Valley shares many similarities with the Southern Rhône. For this reason, more than two decades ago we planted Grenache clones that trace their lineage to Château Beaucastel.

### THE VINTAGE

A wet winter set the stage for explosive canopy growth. Heat began to build in early June and sustained through summer yielding vigorous shoot and leaf growth. A bit of cooling, then one heat wave after another, bringing an early start to harvest. Yield was slightly lower this year with the benefit being exceptional flavor.

### WINEMAKING NOTES

The charm of our new world Grenache is the result of achieving optimal ripeness at lower sugars, allowing us to harvest the fruit earlier. Partial whole-cluster fermentation balances tannins and adds high-toned red fruit. Mimicking winemaking tradition in the Southern Rhône, Grenache's prized strawberry aromatics are preserved in traditional French oak foudres. The challenge when Grenache is on its own is balancing the firm tannins with the terroir's elegance. We achieve this by following a Burgundian approach to winemaking. The nose has lots of similarity with Pinot Noir and the palate, a Barolo or Barbaresco. 15-20% whole-cluster for a more aromatic pop and to moderate extraction, seeds are not exposed so astringency is moderated. Skin contact is 9-14 days depending on the individual lot with slightly cooler fermentation and basket press. Mostly neutral puncheons are key post malolactic, then 600 and 900 gallon foudres.

### THE WINE

Varietally-true Grenache in a word is strawberry. Ours definitely fits the bill. Violet-tinged ruby in color with freshly crushed Alpine strawberry aromatics leaping from the glass along with a subtle herbal complexity. As you sip, uncover flavors of cranberry, pomegranate, red licorice, cinnamon, and grenadine. A little dryness in the palate perks you up and grabs you. These grippy, youthful tannins beg for food and lazy afternoons. The palate is medium-bodied with a lingering finish. This is a nice alternative for anything that goes with Pinot Noir. Versatile, try with roasted chicken, mac & cheese with smoked gouda, paella, your favorite pizza, grilled figs, or monkfish. Cellar age for seven to eight years (2026-2027).

### TECHNICAL NOTES

HARVESTED | BOTTLED..... September 14 – October 2, 2017 | January 17, 2019  
APPELLATION..... Dry Creek Valley, Sonoma County  
VINEYARDS..... 100% Wine Creek Ranch, Quivira's home vineyard, CCOF-certified organic.  
COMPOSITION..... 100% Grenache  
FERMENTATION..... Predominantly open-top fermenters, with punching down by hand.  
BARREL AGING..... 15 months total; first 8 months in French oak barrels (20% new), remaining 7 months in 500L barrels, then 600 and 900 gallon French oak foudres.  
PRODUCTION..... 281 cases  
STATS..... 14.5% ABV | pH 3.57 | TA 0.56  
RETAIL PRICE..... \$36  
WINEMAKER..... Hugh Chappelle

