



R H O N E S E R I E S

2020 MADONNE
ESTATE

<i>Appellation</i>	SANTA CLARA VALLEY
<i>Vineyards</i>	SARAH'S ESTATE
<i>Grower</i>	TIM SLATER
<i>Cepage</i>	GRENACHE, SYRAH, MOURVÈDRE, COUNOISE
<i>Winemaker</i>	TIM SLATER
<i>Alcohol</i>	14.5%
<i>Cooperage</i>	NEUTRAL FRENCH OAK, 18 MONTHS
<i>Production</i>	204 CASES

The Sarah's Vineyard Madonna is our local effort to emulate the traditional red wines of the southern Rhône Valley. It is a blend of estate grown, Rhône red varieties – in this case, primarily Grenache.

Our estate vineyards bridge the historic Santa Clara Valley and the cooler climate "Mt. Madonna" district of the southern Santa Cruz Mountains. Here fog and winds from nearby Monterey Bay dramatically cool down the estate, extending the growing season and providing unique conditions for complex Rhône cultivars.

Our vineyard team worked hard to control vigor and focus the vines' energy on fruit production. With heat waves in August and September, we were able to let the fruit hang for full phenolic ripeness and balanced flavors and acidity. We hand-harvested the fruit the first week of October and finished up by mid-October.

After destemming the whole berries, we fermented at low temperatures in small lot vats. Hand punch downs were used prior to pressing to French oak barrels for eighteen months aging in primarily neutral cooperage to preserve the exceptional, complex fruit. In the 2020 vintage, the final cépage was 64% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre, 12% Syrah, and 4% Counoise.

The '20 Madonna displays a rich dark fruit presence full of dark cherry, blackberry, and blueberry along with savory notes of leather, sage, clove and cocoa powder with a peppery finish. The estate Madonna will pair perfectly with hearty braised short ribs.

