

Reaper

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY RED

Andrew Murray came on board as the Central Coast winemaker for Reaper with the 2013 vintage. Andrew and his team handled all aspects of the wine: from vineyards management, to blending, to bottling. As much as anyone we have ever known, Andrew is a 'non-interventionist' winemaker. He believes fundamentally that great wine starts with great vineyards. Andrew says it is the winemaker's job to take what nature has given us and carefully blend the component parts to make the most successful wine.

2013 Santa Ynez Cabernet / Syrah Blend

We and Andrew share a similar passion for the wines of southern France. One of our favorites is the great iconoclastic estate known as Domaine de Trevallon, which is located on the plateau area of northern Provence. Trevallon is crafted from equal parts Cabernet and Syrah, and the resulting wine manages somehow to be both powerful and ethereal; showing both classic Cabernet qualities of cedar shavings and cigar box alongside that Provencal *eau de garrigue* typifying the traditional wines of the area. The Reaper Santa Ynez Red is our tribute to this great property.

Andrew's Vineyard Notes:

Alisos Vineyard is my favorite vineyard in the Santa Ynez Valley right now. The vineyard is across the street from the famed **Thompson Vineyard**, and just around the corner from the winery. Coastal Vineyard Care farms **Alisos** on our behalf with the same care that they bestow on all of our vineyard holdings. **Alisos** is a steep hillside vineyard. The terroir provides the vines with a relatively cool climate and well drained soils. Although not certified, **Alisos Vineyard** is farmed organically. Wine off our Alisos block shows cool climate notes of raspberries, iron, white pepper and anise.

McGinley Vineyard is in the eastern reaches of the Santa Ynez Valley, in the newly formed Happy Canyon appellation. This vineyard delivers riper, fruitier notes and great color intensity, from the two French Clones that we have under contract there (383 and 99).

Arroyo Perdido Vineyard was planted in the late '60s to wide spaced Cabernet Sauvignon, unknown clone. It produces impossibly small berries with incredible flavor and color density.

- **Vintage: 2013**
- **Location: Santa Ynez Valley**
- **Vineyard: Alisos, McGinley, Arroyo and Coglan Vineyards**

The Cabernet comes out nearly opaque black, with notes of cooler climate Cabernet, cassis, black berry, tobacco, and dusty spices.

The **Coglan Vineyard** was planted about 12 years ago, then just recently sold to the singer Pink. This was the last harvest that was for sale and we are lucky to have contracted for some. The original owners of the vineyard literally abandoned the vineyard and moved to the South with their young family.

Coastal Vineyard Care took over and resurrected the vineyard. They delivered some amazing fruit, from the hillside vineyard planted within the warmer Happy Canyon appellation. We co-fermented the Cabernet with about 10% of Petit Verdot from the same vineyard, which yielded an amazingly dark Cabernet with more fruit forward notes of blueberry and blackberry, and lots of toasty oak notes from the indulgent oak aging.

Elevage of the Wine: All lots hand picked in the cold of the night, and fermented in small open top tanks separately. The Syrah benefited from about 15% whole cluster inclusion, while the Cabernet benefited from an extra hand sorting over our sorting table, which removed shot (unripe) berries, raisins, and any stems or portions of stems (jacks), which helping to avoid any green or unripe flavors in the wine. All wines were on skins from 12-20 days. Syrah was punched down, the Cabernet was pumped over to help soften the tannins. The wine was subsequently aged in a mix of new and 1-3 year old French Oak barrels for 12 months prior to bottling, unfined.

Tasting Notes:

Blue-black core tending to violet at the edges - virtually no water band along with heavy tearing. The nose is redolent of cherry, blackberry, rich leather, cured black olives, tobacco, black-strap molasses, decomposing forest leaves and a slight alcoholic burn. The powerful wine offers firm, fine-grain tannins giving way to flavors of tobacco, leather, cedar shavings, vanilla and bitter cocoa beautifully off-set by a mildly alcoholic sweetness in the finish. This is a powerfully built, impressive wine that will benefit from 3 - 5 years of careful cellaring.

- **Encepagement: 45% Syrah, 45% Cabernet, 10% Petit Verdot**
- **Total Production: 298 cases**
- **Alcohol: 14.8%**

