



Syrah, Alisos and Thompson Vineyards, Santa Barbara County, 2002

This Syrah is a quintessential Drew offering - the balance of fruit weight with structure is one of our ultimate objectives. The Alisos and Thompson Syrah is one of our dual-vineyard designate wines. This allows the wine to demonstrate the focused characteristics, the terroir, of each vineyard, while producing a deeper, more complex wine.

The Alisos and Thompson Vineyards are a mile apart, on opposite sides of Alisos Canyon. The Alisos vineyard is warmer, at a higher elevation with a steep, south-facing slope; the cooler Thompson vineyard is much lower on an east-facing aspect. The low-yielding vines in Alisos Vineyard results in a concentrated fruit and so dominates this dual vineyard designate.

The grapes from the two vineyards were vinified separately, although in similar ways. The grapes were destemmed, but left as whole berries in small, open-top fermenters for a few days as a cool soak; the indigenous yeasts were allowed to just start fermenting before the juice was inoculated with our cultured yeast. The slow fermentation continued at low temperatures, with the cap of berries being punched down by hand only when necessary to keep the temperatures from climbing too high - usually once a day. When this fermentation finished, the must was pressed in our basket press and the resulting wine was allowed to settle in tanks for a couple of days before being placed in 2-year old French oak barrels.

This wine has a deep, dark ruby color, with an intense nose of loganberry, boysenberry, cherry and milk chocolate. The palate is consistent with the nose and shows a mature expression of rich Santa Barbara Syrah character. The structure and flavors on the finish are well balanced and would do very well with a great array of food. Open at least an hour before you start to enjoy the wine.

A gamey streak runs through this grapey, peppery wine, with hints of beef, leather and pencil lead. Well-structured, with firm tannins
Score 85-89.

James Laube, Wine Spectator



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(805) 693-8589

	Alisos Vineyard (75%)	Thompson Vineyard (25%)
Varietal	Syrah	Syrah
Clone	Estrella	Estrella
Rootstock	110R	Own rootstock
Spacing	5 x 10 feet	5 x 10 feet
Pruning	Cane prune	Spur prune
Row orientation	Runs northeast-southwest	Runs west-east
Slope	17%	8%
Aspect	South-southeast	East-southeast
Soil	Shallow sandy loam over soil	Shallow sandy loam over soil
Harvest		
Harvest Date	September 27, 2002	October 11, 2002
Sugars	24.5 degrees brix	24.5 degrees brix
Ph	3.40	3.26
TA	7.8 g/l	7.8 g/l
Barrels	100% French Oak barriques 50% 2-year old Super Heavy Toast 15% 2-year old Medium Toast 35% neutral	
Finished Wine		
Bottled	August 2003	
Released	October 2003	
Total Production	1,800 750ml bottles (150 cases)	
Alcohol	13.6% by volume	
TA	6.6 g/l	
Ph	3.70	



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