

ARAUJO ESTATE WINES 2011 ALTAGRACIA

WINEGROWING INFORMATION

The 2011 vintage highlights the very character of the Eisele Vineyard. During spring, the vineyard was nearly through flowering when late spring rains reduced fruit-set elsewhere in the region. The cool temperatures of summer allowed the average-sized crop to mature evenly, and the vineyard had almost reached optimal ripeness when storms delivered early rain. Harvest started late September, concluding a season that required considerable patience to achieve tannin and phenolic ripeness, as each parcel came to optimum maturity one after the other. The rigorous pre-sorting in the vineyard reduced the challenge of the second sorting at the winery, as the regular crew of a dozen in the vineyard was augmented until 50 workers were removing affected berries, cluster by cluster. The last parcels of Cabernet were picked on October 23rd. Fermentations in small tanks proceeded without delay. The wine was then aged in new French oak barrels for 19 months and bottled in August 2013.

TASTING NOTES

Winemaker Nigel Kinsman notes "the Eisele Vineyard has again shown its ability to deliver wines of distinction in atypical vintages. The minerality and quality of tannins which are Eisele hallmarks couple with fine, generous texture to give us a delicious wine of particular vitality and elegance. 2011 Altagracia bears the signature of this unique place."

GRAPE SOURCE

88% Cabernet Sauvignon 8% Merlot 4% Petit Verdot Napa Valley

PRODUCTION & TECHNICAL DATA

Alcohol: 14.8% Total Acid: 6.1 g/L pH: 3.71 Release date: May 1, 2014

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