

ST. AMANT

TEMPRANILLO THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED 2017

VINEYARD

Tempranillo is Spain's answer to Cabernet Sauvignon and is responsible for putting the guts into so many good Spanish wines. Its grapes are thick-skinned and capable of producing deep-colored long-lasting wines. *Temprano* means early in Spanish, and Tempranillo probably earns its name from its ability to ripen early, two to three weeks before our other red grape varieties.

The grapes for this wine come from our own vineyard in the foothills of Amador County. This particular vineyard block is planted with two carefully selected clones of Tempranillo on a Vertical Shoot Position trellis. The vineyard is in a relatively cool site with a large diurnal temperature swing that produces well-structured wines. 2017 was a wet winter, followed by a warm growing season. Yields were moderate at approximately 4.0 tons/acre.

WINEMAKING STYLE

Picked ripe and hand sorted the grapes were crushed and destemmed to closed top fermentors. 2 gentle pumpovers were performed each day. The wine was pressed off the skins at approximately 2 brix, and finished fermentation in a combination of French and American Oak (21% new). The wine was aged for 16 months in barrels, and completed a natural malolactic fermentation in barrel.

WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS - STUART SPENCER

The 2017 Tempranillo celebrates our 17th vintage of this noble Spanish variety that has found a natural home in our estate vineyard. The wine is a big, chewy, well-structured red with full, round aromas of spice, tobacco, and dark fruits. It has a ripe mouthcoating texture that provides a good lengthy finish.

NOTABLE PAST AWARDS

- BEST OF SHOW RED, DOUBLE GOLD (2015)—CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR
- 4 STAR GOLD (2014)—OC FAIR WINE COMPETITION

CURRENT RELEASE AWARDS

- SILVER (88 PTS)—CA STATE FAIR WINE COMPETITION
- SILVER (85 PTS)—OC FAIR WINE COMPETITION

STATISTICS

Appellation: Amador County
Harvest Date: 9/7/17
Alcohol: 14.9%
Production: 836 Cases

Varietal: 100% Tempranillo
Bottling Date: 3/2/19
pH: 3.76

