



## WINE NOTES

### DEAR WINE CLUB MEMBER

Season's greetings from Bridlewood Estate Winery!

Another year will soon end, and as we reflect on the challenges and successes we've embraced, we also look forward to a new year and give thanks for the people who make our winery special: You.

For the final wine club shipment this year, we're delighted to release the 2015 Block 5 Syrah and 2015 Reserve Syrah. Syrah is the grape our winemaking team knows best. We have 30 acres of hillside vineyards of Syrah, which thrives here. The thick skin of these grapes requires a healthy dose of our warm Santa Ynez Valley sunshine to develop all its concentrated, ripe fruit flavors.

The grapes for the 2015 Block 5 Syrah came from a south-facing block that is one of our highest pieces of land and gets great sun. A majority of the grapes in our new Reserve Syrah came from three blocks on our estate vineyard that get gentle sunshine blended with cool evening temperatures that slow the ripening process and help develop rich, intense flavors.

We are happy to have shared another year with you and are excited for the new wines to come in 2018. From our family to yours, we wish you a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

Cheers,

**THE BRIDLEWOOD ESTATE WINERY TEAM**



### 2015 RESERVE SYRAH

#### SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Retail \$35.00 | Club \$28.00

#### ABOUT THE WINE

Our Reserve Syrah is an elegant expression of Santa Barbara County. This Syrah has a beautiful, deep garnet color and opens with aromas of chocolate and dark fruit. Soft, chewy tannins and a firm acidity form a rich, round palate that leads to a smooth, lingering finish. The savory and complex palate of this Syrah will pair beautifully with smoky grilled meats or stuffed mushrooms.

#### VITICULTURE NOTES

In 2015, we selected Syrah and Petite Sirah grapes from blocks 7, 3 and 5 on our estate vineyard, as well as neighboring vineyards in Santa Barbara County. The 2015 harvest in California was another excellent vintage despite a lighter yield than the previous year. A mild winter causing early bud break, followed by cool weather in the spring, contributed to smaller grape clusters and variable crop size. The grapes from this year are of exceptional quality and showcased rich, spectacular flavors and an excellent balance.

#### WINEMAKING NOTES

In the cellar, we destemmed to an open top fermenter and gently extracted over a period of 10 days. Afterward, the wine was racked to French oak barrels, which were specifically selected to integrate nicely with the wine's natural flavors. Small amounts of Petite Sirah and Viognier were judiciously blended in for layered complexity and fruit enhancement.

#### APPELLATION

Santa Barbara County

#### BOTTLING INFORMATION

Alcohol Level: 13.96%

### 2015 BLOCK 5 SYRAH

#### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

Retail \$50.00 | Club \$40.00

#### ABOUT THE WINE

Our Block 5 Syrah is deliciously distinctive with rich and intense flavor. This opulent wine features flavors of black cherry, strawberries, star anise, caramelized figs and spice. Block 5 Syrah will continue to improve with age and careful cellaring. Enjoy this wine with red meat dishes, such as braised venison or osso buco for a classic pairing.

#### VITICULTURE NOTES

This Syrah was sourced entirely from the steep and south-facing Block 5 on our estate vineyard. One of the highest blocks in elevation, these grapes were afforded intense sunshine and cool evening temperatures perfect for Syrah. The resulting wine from Block 5 is intense and rich. We match this with detailed winemaking and cellaring to enrich and reinforce the intensity of the fruit. The 2015 harvest was an exceptional vintage despite a lighter yield than 2014 due to ongoing drought conditions.

#### WINEMAKING NOTES

Fermentation occurred at warm temperatures in open-top tanks and lasted for 15 days. After pressing, the wine was racked to French oak barrels from select coopers to achieve complex flavors and oak spice. The wine is racked and aged in separate lots with the final cuvée assembled from individual barrel selection during December 2016 after 13 months in barrel, and bottled on February 13, 2017.

#### APPELLATION

Santa Ynez Valley

#### BOTTLING INFORMATION

Alcohol Level: 13.9%

## BRIDLEWOOD HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



### MERRY AND BRIGHT RED WINE COLLECTION

For the red wine connoisseur on your list, this exclusive collection includes some of our favorite reds to toast the holiday season. The 3-bottle set includes:

**2014 HAPPY CANYON OF SANTA BARBARA RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON:** Rich and luxurious, our full-bodied Happy Canyon Cabernet is an exciting experience for the palate, offering layers of blackberry, black currant and hints of white pepper. Warm temperatures, hilly topography and a unique mineral terroir create a blend expressive of the Happy Canyon AVA.

**2015 SANTA YNEZ VALLEY ZINFANDEL:** Aromas of wild blackberry and blueberry seamlessly blend with flavors of vanilla, raspberry jam and white pepper for revelry in a glass. The majority of the grapes for our Estate Zinfandel were selected from our estate vineyard in Santa Ynez Valley.

**2015 SANTA YNEZ VALLEY BLOCK 7 SYRAH:** Our Bridlewood Block 7 Syrah showcases how proper vineyard selection, winemaking techniques and artful blending can create elegant wines. A creamy palate with notes of toasted oak, black pepper and cardamom make this a delicious and easy to enjoy wine.

### ESTATE WINE CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Membership to our wine club is a wonderful gift for the wine aficionado on your list. Estate club members enjoy exclusive benefits including invitations to members only events, wine tastings for members and three guests at Bridlewood, six wine shipments through the year, and a regular 20% discount. Select from shipping or will call membership options. This is the gift that will keep on giving!

## BRIDLEWOOD HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



### DREAMING OF A WHITE WINE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

If you are dreaming of a white Christmas, our white wine collection is the perfect gift this season. Select from any of these wines to create a custom set for the holidays.

**2015 SANTA LUCIA HIGHLANDS RESERVE CHARDONNAY:** This rich and full-bodied wine offers vibrant notes of pear and baked apple that intermingle with spicy toasted oak. The grapes for our Chardonnay were selected from the Santa Lucia Highlands, a premier winegrowing district in the Monterey AVA.

**2016 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CHARDONNAY:** On the palate, the fresh fruit flavors of this wine are complemented by subtle notes of vanilla and a hint of nutmeg for a Chardonnay that is reminiscent of fresh baked goods. This well-balanced Chardonnay is food-friendly and refreshing.

**2016 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY RESERVE VIOGNIER:** Delightfully intense aromas of fresh pear, apricot and white blossom arise from the glass for a rich bouquet. This Viognier is creamy and smooth on the palate, offering flavors of lemon gelato, orange blossom and dried apricot.

We believe it is better to give than to receive during the holidays, and nothing is better than the gift of wine! Deliver cheer this holiday season and give the special gift of Bridlewood wines. Contact [wineclub@bridlewoodwinery.com](mailto:wineclub@bridlewoodwinery.com) or call (805) 688-9000 ext. 2258 to order any of these exclusive gifts.



BRIDLEWOOD  
ESTATE WINERY

THE ESTATE WINE CLUB

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