



Using old world methods to handcraft unique vineyard designated wines.

2013 Carmenerere

Our Rennie Organic Vineyard, Yorkville Highlands

- ◆ Estate grown grapes from our certified organic vineyard in southern Mendocino County
- ◆ 95% Carmenerere & 5% Petit Verdot
- ◆ Harvested Oct. 26, 2013
- ◆ Technical Notes:
 - Alcohol: 13.5%
 - Total Acidity: 6.1 g/L; pH: 3.57
- ◆ Fewer than 250 cases produced

Tasting Notes

92 pts, GOLD - Beverage Tasting Institute review: "Nearly opaque black garnet color. Bright, spicy aromas of blueberry cobbler and Mexican chocolate with a satiny, vibrant, fruity medium body and a polished, delightful, medium-long spiced berries and vanilla cream finish with silky tannins and light oak. A delicious, juicy domestic carmenere that will be very versatile."

A few Words about Carmenerere

Carmenerere is certainly an enigmatic wine. Its modern history is becoming better known amongst wine folk, but here's a quick recap: Despite being one of the more widely planted varietals across France in the 19th century, after the phylloxera epidemic wiped out most of France's vines in the 1860's and 1870's Carmenerere was deemed too unreliable to replant in the rush to make vineyards opulent and profitable again. Consequently, it all but died out. However, in the '90's a peculiar grape called Merlot Noir, thought to be a mutation of Merlot, in Chile, caught the attention of winemakers.

In 1994 suspicions were confirmed by DNA testing: Merlot Noir is Carmenerere, and as much as 12% of Chile's red grape plantings are Carmenerere, thanks to the unwitting actions of vineyard planters in the 1700's. And so Carmenerere is once again on the world stage, thanks to a push by the Chilean winemaking industry to help the varietal receive the recognition it deserves.

According to the latest ag statistics, there are just 52 bearing acres of Carmenerere in France, and 57 in California (out of 478,000 acres of wine grapes).

Accolades

Gold Medal, Orange County Wine Competition
92 pts, Gold Medal, Beverage Tasting Institute

