



Using old world methods to handcraft unique vineyard designated wines.

2014 Carmenerre

Our Rennie Organic Vineyard, Yorkville Highlands

- ◆ 100% estate grown grapes from our certified organic vineyard in southern Mendocino County
- ◆ 90% Carmenerre, and 10% Petit Verdot
- ◆ Harvested Oct. 14, 2014; hand picked
- ◆ 20 months in French oak barrels
- ◆ Technical Notes:
 - Alcohol: 13.5%
 - Total Acidity: 7.0 g/L; pH: 3.37

Certified each year since planting in 1990 by CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers).



Critic's Review

Beverage Tasting Institute: "Dark deep purple color. Herbal, green aromas and flavors of chocolate berries and nuts, hint of root beer sorbet, olive and green pepper skin, and hint of caulk with a silky, bright, dry-yet-fruity medium body and an even, compelling, medium-length cherry orange relish, pickled melon and beets, cedar, and clay finish with fine, dusty tannins and moderate oak. An interesting and charming red with bright acidity and a nice sense of place." **90 pts. Gold Medal**

A Few Words about Carmenerre

Carmenerre 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 Carmenerre 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 Carmenerre, and as much as 12% of Chile's red grape plantings are Carmenerre, thanks to the unwitting actions of vineyard planters in the 1700's. And so Carmenerre 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 recent ag statistics, there are just 52 bearing acres of Carmenerre in France, and 57 in California (out of 478,000 acres of wine grapes). A bit of trivia: Yorkville put in the 10th acre of Carmenerre in California in 2002.

