



TWOSHEPHERDS

*Making Unique Rhone Wines that Express Their Sense of Place & Vintage*

## **2012 Pastoral Rouge, Red Rhône Blend (Grenache, Mourvèdre, Syrah)**

### **Release Notes**

Pastoral Rouge is our flagship red blend, based on Grenache Noir, aligning with our philosophy that Rhône varieties showcase themselves as blends. For Two Shepherds, the blend is the very best wine we can craft, not a leftover dumping ground. Weeks of tasting trials go into the blend, with the final product being a blend of many lots, often from partial barrels. This red blend is one of our longest bottle aged, usually after the 3 individual components are sold out, giving them extra time to harmonize. Burgundy meets the Rhône, in this light, graceful 12.5% alcohol blend.

### **Vineyard Notes**

The Grenache and Syrah are from a hillside of the famed Saralee's Vineyard. Though Russian River Valley is dominated by Pinot Noir, its warm mild days and cool foggy nights provide an excellent growing environment for a perfect balance of ripeness and acidity. The Mourvèdre is also from Russian River Valley, where this variety is now almost nonexistent, due to the challenges of ripening this heat loving grape here.

### **Winemaking Notes**

The lots were fermented with native yeast in small ½ ton bins, some whole cluster, some destemmed. The final blend has 60% stem inclusion, adding soft tannins for structure. The lots were gently pressed when fermentation was complete into neutral French oak barrels, where malolactic fermentation occurred without inoculation. The wine was aged on the lees for 5 months, raked twice prior to bottling after ten months in barrel.

### **Tasting Notes**

The 2012 blend is comprised of 40% Grenache, 25% Syrah, and 30% Mourvèdre. In comparison to the 2011 this release is slightly less savory, lighter, brighter and more vibrant, which will not come as a surprise to those who enjoyed the 3 individual wines. Color is a light brick red. On the nose one smells fresh aromas of pomengranite, black tea, white pepper, red cherry and spice. On the palate the wine is subtle, bright, fresh: layered with bright red fruits, a mid palate that covers the tongue with spice and darker red fruits, and a lingering finish, with just a touch of tannin for balance, with a hint of salinity that will continue to develop with bottle aging. Suggested to drink from a Burgundy glass, and please, at proper temperature of 56-58 degrees.

### **Technical Notes**

- **Varietals:** 45% Grenache, 25% Syrah, and 30% Mourvèdre.
- **Vineyard:** Saralee's Vineyard, Windsor Oaks Vineyard, Russian River Valley.
- **Harvest Date:** Grenache 10/22/12, Syrah: 10/8/12. Mourvèdre: 10/23/12
- **Brix at harvest:** Grenache 23, Syrah: 21.5. Mourvèdre: 22.5
- **pH** 3.65, T.A. 0.65 g/100mL
- **Alcohol:** 12.5%
- **Fermentation:** small open top bins, native yeast and ML
- **Aging:** 10 months in neutral French oak
- **Case Production:** 200 cases 750ml bottles
- **Suggested Retail:** \$36 available online, the winery & at select Bay Area wine shops and restaurants
- **Winemaker:** William Allen

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