



KINGSTON
FAMILY
VINEYARDS
CASABLANCA CHILE

TASTING NOTES



2012 LUCERO SYRAH

VARIETAL COMPOSITION	100% Syrah
PRODUCTION	1,043 cases
ALCOHOL	14.5%
RELEASE DATE	March 2014
TYPE OF OAK	French
MONTHS IN OAK	13 Months
RATINGS	90 pts, James Suckling 90 pts, Descorchados

Kingston Family Vineyards is a boutique winery located on the farm that has been in our family for a century. We handcraft Pinot Noir, Syrah, Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay from our vineyards in Casablanca, Chile.

Kingston also collaborates in MOVI, Chile's Movement of Independent Winemakers, whose members make small lots of artisan wines by hand.

When people talk of true Syrah fruit flavors, they tend not to acknowledge that Syrah fruit is actually not very fruity. In fact, it is full of herbal, spicy, savory flavors. Not what we normally associate with "fruitiness" at all. All of the 2012 Kingston Syrahs are bursting with Syrah fruit flavors, which is to say that they all feature lots of spicy, savory, herbal flavors. Still, I would hesitate to call them "fruity." The Lucero, the most approachable of our three blends, always features notes of lavender, tapenade, black olives and black fruits. The 2012, like the 2011, is a bit more subtle and approachable than earlier vintages, fresh and lively, and most importantly, drinkable. While it gets better with air, it doesn't demand decanting. As always, it works beautifully at table, paired with hearty unpretentious fare.

We've stopped using new oak in the Syrah in an effort to find the purest expression of the grape. While aging in oak (as opposed to aging in a stainless steel tank) benefits the wine in numerous ways, the flavor of new oak seems to get in the way of the flavors and aromas that come out of the vineyard. The view of our barrel room now doesn't show many shiny new barrels; instead, they are darker (the surface of the barrel, as it ages, darkens, just as unfinished furniture does), wine-stained. Atmospheric. The longer I make wine, the more old school I become. Or perhaps I am just getting old!

- Byron Kosuge, Consulting Winemaker

