



KINGSTON
FAMILY
VINEYARDS
CASABLANCA CHILE

TASTING NOTES



2015 CJ'S BARREL SYRAH

VARIETAL COMPOSITION	100% Syrah
PRODUCTION	75 cases
ALCOHOL	14%
RELEASE DATE	March 2017
TYPE OF OAK	French
MONTHS IN OAK	12 Months

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.

Making wine the exact same way every year is boring, and so we always try new things in the cellar in the spirit of staying fresh and keeping an open mind. These ideas are generally along the lines of "how can we employ traditional practices in new and interesting ways?" or sometimes it's just "Wouldn't it be cool if we (fill in the blank)."

CJ's Barrel is often a result of this enological play. In 2015, as most years, we picked a portion of the Syrah on the early side. Other lots we let get riper and, at blending time, this gives us more options to work with. When we tasted through all the 2015 Syrahs together, Amael and I were struck by the expressiveness of the wine from this early picked fruit. To be honest, it wasn't necessarily the "best" wine—it was lighter in body, a little angular, and the tannins were not as plush as the wines that went into the Bayo and the Lucero—but it was so distinctive that we felt it deserved to be bottled on its own.

Thus the 2015 CJ's Syrah was born.

The aromatics are subtle at this early stage. Mint, spice, flowers. Not "fruity," at least not yet. But the most interesting thing about this wine is how it unfolds on the palate. Because of the relatively modest alcohol (13%), it does not have the mid palate sweetness of the Lucero or the Bayo. Instead, it has a slightly "salty" character, which reminds me of some of my favorite Old World syrahs. The fruit character is still decidedly new world, but the texture is somewhere between Old and New World. Could this be a hint of what's to come, as the vines get older? I hope so.

Definitely lay this one down for a while.

- Byron Kosuge, Consulting Winemaker

