



Birichino

With its blend of aromatic detail, refined tannins, and alpine freshness, this Grenache is both a testament to the vineyard's 112-year history and a celebration of modern, low-intervention winemaking.

BIRICHINO

Besson Vineyard Old Vines Grenache 2022

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

The **Besson Vineyard**, established in **1910**, is located in the **Central Coast** appellation near the foothills of the **Santa Cruz Mountains**. This 112-year-old site is **dry-farmed**, relying solely on natural precipitation, which contributes to the vines' resilience and the wine's intense concentration.

The vineyard's **Grenache Noir vines** produce small, highly aromatic berries with a characteristic **botanical profile** and layered fruit flavors. The terroir's balance of warm days and cool nights ensures a long growing season, enhancing the fruit's natural acidity and the development of **complex aromatics**. The resulting wine reflects the vineyard's heritage, marked by **cherry liqueur richness**, fine tannins, and a touch of **alpine freshness** that defines its unique identity.

Winemaking

The **2022 vintage** marks another successful expression of the Besson Vineyard, merging the aromatic finesse of **2018** with the density and depth of **2019**. Though the crop size was moderate, the quality far surpassed recent harvests, emphasizing aromatic precision and tannic structure.

Following Birichino's tradition, a portion of the grapes was subjected to an **appassimento-style process**, where they were "rested" in picking boxes for **10 days post-harvest**. This fraction was then fermented with its stems, undergoing an extended **6-week maceration**, resulting in a **tannic and botanical component** that amplifies the wine's signature alpine character. For the first time, small amounts of appassimento fractions from **2018, 2020, and 2022 vintages** were blended, contributing **4%** of the final wine.

The main lot included **30% whole stems** during fermentation, which was carried out spontaneously with native yeasts in stainless steel tanks. Twice-daily pump-overs ensured optimal extraction. The wine was aged exclusively in **neutral 450-500L puncheons** to retain purity of fruit and subtle texture. As is customary, the wine was bottled in **late summer 2023** without fining or filtration, preserving its vibrant and unadulterated nature.



Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Grenache



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Bright ruby red with a subtle garnet hue.
- **Aroma:** Intense and aromatic, with notes of **cherry liqueur**, **dried herbs**, and a distinct **alpine freshness**. Subtle undertones of **botanical spice** and **earth** add depth.
- **Palate:** Juicy and lively, with flavors of **red cherries**, **cranberries**, and a touch of **black tea**. The mid-palate is structured yet elegant, with **stealthy tannins** that emerge gradually, leading to a long, refined finish marked by freshness and minerality.

Did You Know?

The **Besson Vineyard** is over a century old, making it a rare and cherished site for **Grenache Noir**. Its dry-farming methods and historic vines produce a wine with exceptional concentration, aromatic complexity, and a unique expression of California's viticultural heritage.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Herb-crusted lamb chops:** The wine's tannic structure and botanical notes complement the savory and herbal flavors of lamb.
- **Roasted duck with cherry glaze:** The rich cherry and alpine freshness of the wine pair beautifully with the dish's sweet-savory balance.
- **Ratatouille:** The vibrant fruit and herbal profile harmonize with the dish's medley of vegetables and Provençal herbs.
- **Mushroom and truffle risotto:** The wine's earthiness and tannic finesse elevate the umami richness of the dish.

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 94 Points (2022)



This young bottling will have a long cellar life, thanks perhaps to the old-vine attributes. Aromas of amaro-like myrtle and eucalyptus leaf meet with stewed strawberry and raspberry on the nose. The palate is loaded with acid, chalky in tannins, and spicy in cracked white pepper, with a core of pomegranate and black raspberry fruit.

Wines & Spirits (W&S) : 92 Points (2017)



This comes from head-trained vines planted in the 1910s, near the southern flanks of the Santa Cruz Mountains. It's saturated with flavor, from baking spice to deep red-cherry notes, and structured by ripe, concentrated tannins. It's a grenache with exceptional composure and grace.



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Decanter (DCT) : 91 Points (2017)

Dry-farmed bush vines on their own roots from 1910, a small proportion of appassimento grapes, matured in cement and neutral oak. A minimal-intervention style, paler red than anything from the Rho^ne. Bright, perfumed, peppery cherry. Light-bodied, very drinkable and thirst-quenching, zingy.



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