

Sine Qua Non

A bold and expressive Grenache from California's Central Coast, the 2020 Distenta II showcases Sine Qua Non's commitment to crafting unique and compelling wines.

Distenta II Grenache 2020

California, USA



Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 78% Grenache, 9% Mourvèdre, 8% Syrah, 4% Petite Syrah

Region and Vineyards

The 2020 Distenta II Grenache is sourced entirely from Sine Qua Non's estate vineyards: Eleven Confessions (40%), Cumulus (33%), The Third Twin (21%), and Molly Aïda (6%). These vineyards are located in California's Central Coast, an area renowned for its diverse microclimates and soil compositions, which contribute to the complexity and character of the wines produced.

The region's Mediterranean climate, with its warm days and cool nights, allows for extended ripening periods, enhancing flavor development while preserving acidity. The varied topography and soil types across the vineyards provide a rich palette for viticulture, enabling the cultivation of grapes with distinct profiles that, when blended, result in a wine of remarkable depth and balance.

Winemaking

The 2020 Distenta II Grenache is a blend of 77.9% Grenache, 9.4% Mourvèdre, 7.9% Syrah, 4.3% Petite Sirah, and 0.5% Viognier. Approximately 29% of the grapes were fermented with whole clusters, a technique that adds complexity and structure to the wine. The fermentation process was carefully managed to extract optimal color, flavor, and tannin profiles.

Following fermentation, the wine was aged for about 23 months in French oak barrels, 52% of which were new. This aging regimen imparts subtle oak nuances and allows the wine to develop its full potential. The result is a full-bodied, concentrated wine that balances ripe fruit flavors with refined tannins and a persistent finish.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep purple-black with a nearly opaque core.
- **Aroma:** Aromas of blackberry pie, black cherry cordial, molten licorice, dark chocolate, and candied violets, with hints of Sichuan pepper and beef drippings.

- **Palate:** Full-bodied and concentrated, featuring layers of red and black fruits, plush tannins, and a lively backbone that lifts the floral-sparked layers to an epically long, perfumed finish.

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Did you know?

The name "Distenta" is derived from Latin, meaning "unlabeled." Sine Qua Non adopted this naming convention as a response to the complexities of trademark and copyright issues, allowing them to continue their tradition of unique wine identities without legal constraints. The 2020 Distenta II Grenache received high acclaim, with a score of 97–99 points from Wine Advocate, highlighting its exceptional quality and the winery's innovative approach to winemaking.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled lamb chops with rosemary and garlic:** The wine's robust structure complements the rich flavors of the lamb.
- **Duck breast with berry reduction:** The fruity notes in the wine enhance the savory-sweet profile of the dish.
- **Wild mushroom risotto:** The earthy flavors of the mushrooms pair well with the wine's depth and complexity.
- **Aged Gouda cheese:** The cheese's nutty character harmonizes with the wine's rich fruit and spice notes.

100 JEB DUNNUCK

Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 100 Points (2020)

The 2020 Grenache Distenta II is a blend of mostly 78% Grenache and the rest Mourvèdre, Syrah, Petite Sirah, and a tiny splash of Viognier. It's a ripe, sexy, insanely good barrel sample that has remarkable purity, tons of black raspberry and cassis fruits, perfect balance, full-bodied richness, and an already complex bouquet of violets, spice, and flowers. I continue to be blown away by what this estate seems to achieve with Grenache in just about every vintage.Barrel Sample: 97-100

99

Robert Parker (RP) : 99 Points (2020)

Still in barrel, the 2020 Grenache Distenta 11 is a blend of 77.9% Grenache, 9.4% Mourvèdre, 7.9% Syrah, 4.3% Petite Sirah and 0.5% Viognier. Fruit comes entirely from the Krankls' estate vineyards: Eleven Confessions (40%), Cumulus (33%), The Third Twin (21%) and Molly Aïda (6%). It was made with 29% whole clusters, predominantly Grenache. "Ten years ago, I was afraid of whole clusters," Manfred Krankl recalls. "Now, I quite like it, especially on Grenache, a little less so on Syrah." Matured about 23 months in 52% new French oak and demi-muids, it has a deep ruby-purple color and slowly opening scents of wild berry jam, burnt orange peel, black tea leaves and coffee beans. The palate is full-bodied yet light on its feet, with juicy, floral flavors and a dreamy texture woven from loads and loads of super-fine tannins.Barrel Sample: 97-99

96 vinous

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 96 Points (2020)

The 2020 Grenache Distenta II is a powerful, driving wine. In this tasting, the Grenache comes across as a bit compact. I imagine some of the stress of this warm dry season has an impact here, even though the yields were actually on the higher side. It will be interesting to see if this gains a bit more body in aging. All that said, the 2020 finishes with very good freshness. (AG) (6/2022)