

Sine Qua Non

A bold and expressive Grenache from California's Central Coast, the 2018 Eleven Confessions exemplifies Sine Qua Non's commitment to crafting unique and compelling wines.

Eleven Confessions Grenache 2021

California, USA



Alcohol :15,00 %

Composition: 84% Grenache, 9% Syrah, 6% Petite Syrah, 1% Viognier

Region and Vineyards

The 2018 Eleven Confessions Grenache is sourced entirely from Sine Qua Non's estate vineyard located on the eastern side of the Sta. Rita Hills in California's Central Coast. This region is renowned for its diverse microclimates and soil compositions, which contribute to the complexity and character of the wines produced.

The vineyard's unique terroir, characterized by its cool climate and varied soils, allows for extended ripening periods, enhancing flavor development while preserving acidity. This meticulous vineyard management results in grapes with distinct profiles that, when blended, create a wine of remarkable depth and balance.

Winemaking

The 2018 Eleven Confessions Grenache is a blend of 83.7% Grenache, 9.1% Syrah, 6% Petite Sirah, and 1.2% Viognier. Approximately 45% 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 38 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 ruby-purple with a nearly opaque core.
- **Aroma:** Aromas of black raspberries, sweet spices, smoked black fruits, iron, black olives, and meaty, peppery notes.
- **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 "Eleven Confessions" refers to the estate vineyard from which this wine is sourced. Sine Qua Non adopted this naming convention to highlight the unique terroir and the winery's commitment to crafting distinctive wines. The 2018 Eleven Confessions Grenache received high acclaim, with a score of 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 (2019)

The late bottled 2019 Grenache Eleven Confessions Vineyard is another undeniably great wine from this incredible estate and it tops out my scale. Based on 89% Grenache, 6% Syrah, 4% Petite Sirah, and the balance Gelber Muskateller (Muscat Blanc), all from the Eleven Confessions Vineyard in the Sta. Rita Hills, it spent 39 months in 50% new French oak, with the balance in 2- to 5-year-old barrels. It's a powerful, full-bodied, opulent Grenache that brings to mind a great vintage of Domaine de Marcoux's Vieilles Vignes with its gorgeous red and black fruits, smoked herbs, leather, and assorted spicy, sandalwood, and peppery nuances. Full-bodied on the palate, it has flawless balance, a deep, layered mid-palate, and velvety tannins. It brings that rare mix of richness and elegance that only Grenache can. (8/2023)

98 vinous

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 98 Points (2019)

The 2019 Grenache Eleven Confessions Vineyard is a wild, exotic wine. High-toned aromatics meld into a core of dark red/purplish fruit, lavender, rose petal, mint and new leather. There is a touch of volatile acidity that, for me, is not a signature of Sine Qua Non wines. Dollops of Syrah, Petite Syrah and Gelber Muskateller round out the blend. (AG) (9/2023)

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Robert Parker (RP) : 97 Points (2019)

The 2019 Grenache Eleven Confessions Vineyard is made up of 89.4% Grenache, 5.5% Syrah, 4.1% Petite Sirah and 1% Gelber Muskateller (a.k.a. Muscat Blanc à Petits Grains). It was crafted using 35% whole clusters, matured for around 39 months in 50% new French oak barrels and demi-muids and was bottled in January 2022. Deep ruby-purple in color, it takes significant time to open and is mostly coiled and shy on day one. On day two, its aromas unfurl: cherry pie and wild berry jam scents are layered with tones of cured meat, peppercorn, bergamot and wildflowers. The full-bodied palate is seamless and ultra powdery in texture, with balancing bursts of juicy acidity that highlight pretty spice and floral tones that fan across the long finish. It deserves generous cellar time and will be long lived. (EB) (6/2023)