

2007 Highflyer Syrah

Vivio Vineyard - Clone 470 / Somerston Vineyards

Highflyer

At Highflyer, we work with small, family-owned, benchmark vineyards throughout California where terroir and variety are in perfect alignment. We harvest fruit from the Santa Lucia Highlands, Santa Maria Valley, Bennett Valley, Santa Ynez and Napa Valley to produce wines that are thought-provoking, varietally and regionally accurate and delicious. Our name references our winemaker/owner Craig Becker's other great passion in life: aviation. As a private pilot Craig can fly to a distant region, walk the site, meet with the vineyard management team to ensure our strict farming protocols are being followed and still be home in time for dinner.

Vineyard

Vivio Vineyard (Bennett Valley) is located in the northern part of the Sonoma Valley. It is planted on the side of Mount Taylor at approximately 800 feet above sea level. In 2007 we selected clone 470, which is one of three clones from this 12-acre, low-vigor site. The vineyard is blessed with cool ocean breezes, light fog and a long growing season. Its reddish clay loam and fractured volcanic rock soils seem ideal for growing Syrah.

Weather

The 2007 growing season is one of classic character; late Spring rains delayed bud-break and the harvest was approximately two to three weeks later than "average" in getting started. Following a July heat spell, temperatures moderated to provide very even-ripening conditions that persisted through a beautiful Indian summer in October.

Winemaking

In 2007 we produced only 6 barrels of this varietally-pure Syrah. It has bold aromatics of crushed stone, blueberry crisp, pepper, leather and earth. The flavors recall briery black fruits, dark chocolate and loganberry jam. The tannins are fine and balanced but not shy.

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