



artezin

MOURVÈDRE

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
EVANGELHO VINEYARD



2012

Central to Artezin's brand philosophy is the preservation of "heirloom varieties". One such variety is the French Mourvèdre or Spanish Monastrell (from the Latin word meaning monastery). Originally from the old Catalonian wine seaport of Morvedre (now called Sagunto) near Valencia, this variety spread to France in the 1500's and is now integral to Provence's famous Bandol wines and has a structural role in Southern Rhône blends, including Chateauneuf du Pape. In California, there are 940 acres, and it is also known as Mataro, another Catalonian seaport, and excels in warm, infertile sites such as sandy Contra Costa County.

WINEMAKER NOTES

"In the glass, you'll find a wine richly vermilion red with violet hues. Aromas of red fruits led by pomegranate and cranberry open, followed by blackberry, cherry, earth and hints of dry forest. Flavors are similar, joined by licorice, clove and allspice. In the mouth you'll enjoy a highly textured wine, silky with finesse. I enjoy this with Asian fusion dishes, sharp cheeses and savory meats such as lamb, duck or venison, as well as robust traditional takes on beef and richly sauced pastas. A special vineyard brings forward a very special wine."

Randle Johnson

Randle Johnson, Winemaker

Blend: 94% Mourvèdre
6% Zinfandel
TA: 0.58 gms/100mL
pH: 3.6
Alc.: 14.7%

Cooperage: 100% French Oak - once
and twice filled Chateau Ferre barrels
Harvest Date: September 14, 2012
Bottling Date: February 4, 2014

VINEYARD NOTES

Our Mourvèdre comes from a seemingly unlikely locale: the Carquinez Strait, which is the estuary created by the confluence of the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers. On the southern edge of these Straits is a bench of pure sand more than 40 feet deep. This is the home of the Evangelho Vineyard, planted in 1880 on its own roots. Since phylloxera cannot live in sand it has survived California's two phylloxera epidemics. This vineyard is essentially and miraculously virus free and is trained as true "bush vines." These factors, coupled with precise viticultural and farm practices, along with some TLC from the Evangelho family, create small clusters of exceptional quality.

