



SBRAGIA

FAMILY VINEYARDS

2011 LA PROMESSA ZINFANDEL

“I was deeply impressed with the wines I tasted from Ed and Adam Sbragia this year.”
—A. Galloni, WINE ADVOCATE, April 2013



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Appellation: Dry Creek Valley

Harvest: September 27, 2011

Blend: 95% Zinfandel, 5% Petite Sirah

Cooperage: 18 months in French Oak barrels

Alcohol: 15.5%

TA: 7.03 g/L

pH: 3.95

Cases Produced: 336

VINEYARD

The name of this wine -- and the vineyard from which it is sourced -- means “The Promise” in Italian. It was chosen for the promise I made to my father to continue our family’s long winemaking tradition in California. The vineyard is located next to our winery on a rocky, southwest-facing slope that is arguable in the warmest part of the Dry Creek Valley. Planted in 1999, the vineyard is still relatively young; 2011 marks our sixth vintage of this wine.

VINTAGE

A wet winter and spring continued with rainfall into mid-June. This delayed bloom and disrupted fruit set resulting in shatter in parts of the region. This set the stage for a long, cooler-than-average growing season with a later-than-average harvest. The cloud cover and cool temperatures delayed vine development by several weeks at the onset of the growing season. Few high heat events occurred at any point this year, growers managed more open vine canopies to ensure sunlight, warmth and good air circulation around the grape clusters. After a consistently cool summer season, significant mid-October rain pushed the vintage even later. But growers were rewarded with weeks of fantastic weather, a prolonged Indian summer that provided needed ripening time. Quality looks very good with lower alcohols, good structure and length on the palate.

WINEMAKING

I use the minimal winemaking techniques my father taught me with La Promessa, resulting in a wine that displays quintessential Dry Creek Zinfandel characteristics. The wine aged for 18 months in a combination of new and seasoned French oak barrels. I love the brown spice and cedar notes that French oak brings to Dry Creek Zin, along with the supple tannins which round out the wine’s rich mouth feel.

WINEMAKER NOTES

La Promessa is a tribute to my father, who made wine as far back as I can remember. The 2011 vintage is one he would have loved: with aromas of wild blackberry, raspberry and pomegranate that carry through to the flavors, accompanied by notes of brown sugar, molasses, vanilla bean and cocoa. This is a rich, juicy wine with mouth filling, forward fruit, but there’s a streak of acid that keeps the wine structured, and moderate tannins that make for a nice smooth finish.



Ed Sbragia

Adam Sbragia

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