



2011 BESSON GRENACHE OLD VINES

The Besson family have been farming this vineyard for most of its 100+ years. Rarely if ever though, have they brought in the fruit to the sound of frost alarms in the final days of October, as was the case in 2011. This long, relatively cool year was right in our wheelhouse, however. Despite years of familiarity with these grapes in a previous lifetime, the vineyard asks something slightly different from us each vintage. In 2011, we included more whole clusters and extended the cuvaision, finding this old vine fruit benefits from, and can support, a fair amount of grip [or is it the other way around?] Though paradoxically slightly lighter hued and considerably larger scaled than its predecessor, the basic flavor profile is quite similar - vibrant, sappy Morello cherry and other little red fruits, with a bit more aromatic spice layered underneath. This incremental oomph called for further tenure in barrel, and additional time has also enriched the texture and length, producing a more complete wine upon release. Vanna, do you have the numbers? TA: 5.4g/l, pH 3.46, Alc. 13.5%
-Alex and John

Release Date: Fall 2012
Composition: Grenache Noir 100%
Appellation: Besson Vineyard, Central Coast
Case Production: 940s

Press:

The New York Times
"I loved (the) 2011 grenache from the Besson Vineyard; fresh, fragrant, sweetly fruity and deliciously spicy."
Eric Asimov, June 2013

San Francisco Chronicle
Double Gold, SF Chron
Wine Competition 2013