

BIRICHINO



2015 BESSON GRENACHE OLD VINES

2015 sees a continuation of swings between richer, robust vintages, such as 2010, 2013, 2014, and the more bell toned, transparent years such as 2011 and 2012. 2015 falls definitely in the bell tone camp. Harvest commenced a tad earlier than normal, the result of an early bud break and drought-induced vine stress. Even the old Besson vines felt the effects of three straight years of drought, and began to shut down by early October. Even so, the proportion of whole clusters continues to rise, as the vineyard's capacity to support the increased grip is affirmed vintage after vintage.

We also continue to added a small but significant fraction of clusters employing the appassimento method, – allowing clusters rest for 10 to 12 days, drying the stems and performing other less understood though miraculous transformations. The resulting phenolic attack is not a full frontal assault however, but rather the phenomenon we now refer to as Ninja tannins – that subtle quality of grip which sneaks up on one from behind to execute its task – lengthening and giving more tension to the palate – only to vanish leaving behind but a shadow.

Alc. 14.0%, pH 3.75, TA 6.5 g/l

-Alex & John

Release Date: Spring 2017

Composition: 100%

Grenache Noir

Appellation: Besson Vineyard,
Central Coast