

# BIRICHINO



## 2016 BESSON GRENACHE OLD VINES

The Besson Grenache is our Flagship and – nothing is to be gained by feigning modesty – this is an exceptional vintage. It is very young, but all the elements which make up a great vintage shine very brightly – vivid perfume, persistence and spatial completeness, the pine tip, candied ginger, dried fruit quality derived from a brief appassimento performed on 10% of the grapes, and those fine-grained 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. 2016 was a smallish vintage, harvested over 6 days in early October. One of the myriad virtues of the Besson Vineyard is its clear voice in announcing when it is ripe, if you know what to listen for. The nearly 10 contiguous acres do not ripen evenly, and thus we proceed section by section, beginning with the sections that provide the high aromatics, then the blocks responsible for the lush red fruit mid-palate, and finally the most tannic strip along the vineyard's eastern border. It is a lovely puzzle to put together, and one of the joys of getting to know a vineyard is learning what it is trying to communicate when. We feel we know this site better than any other with which we work, though we are likely 40 to 50 years away from anything approaching comprehensive understanding of all of its subtleties. pH 3.46 TA 6.1 g/l Alc.14.0%

**Release Date:** Spring 2018

**Composition:** 100%  
Grenache Noir

**Appellation:** Besson Vineyard,  
Central Coast