



## 2010 Syrah – Altes Vineyard (Sonoma County)

The Altes Vineyard is located in the Rincon Valley area of Santa Rosa just off Brush Creek Road to the east, up on the Hills. The Syrah receives afternoon sun and warmer evenings than most of Sonoma County. Those who know the area know that little valley runs north to south with no exposure to the many wind tunnels coming in from the coast. This gave the vineyard a long ripening period with amazing sun exposure. The berries were incredibly small with tough dark skins.

The fruit arrived at the winery in the early morning hours, where it was crushed and fermented in a small one ton open top fermenter. Due to the berry size being so small and there being very little juice we were forced to mix or punch down the cap by hand. Not using a punch down stick but actually mixing and stirring with our arms as to make sure to keep every skin moist and to be as gentle as possible. The wine was then pressed in a large basket press and aged in 1 year old French oak barrels for the next 10 months, with one clean racking prior to bottling. The wine was put to tank and given a mild egg white fining to help bring and pull all the unique flavors together.

The resulting wine has amazing color and fruit that will jump out of the glass, with hints of plums and blueberries with some fudgy undertones. The wine is incredibly enjoyable today but will age a good 5-6 additional years. Make sure to grab one, since with only 275 cases made and it not being a Willowbrook staple who knows when you might see this treasure again.

**Joseph C. Otos – Winemaker**

**Production: 275 cases**

**Alcohol content: 14.8%**

**Retail: \$28**

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