

2004 Syrah

SONOMA COUNTY
Kalen's Big Boy Blend

Label Artist:
Sharon Easley

Tasting Notes | Get ready for a party, because that's what this wine is all about. Blended in honor of our son (the little monkey) who is a glorious handful with his big personality and winning smile, this Syrah is a celebration of rich fruit, spice, heft, plus a smidge of silliness thrown in for balance.

Black cherry, black pepper, cinnamon and smoked meats define this wine's protruding proboscis, followed by more black cherry, pomegranate and dark chocolate on the palate. As for color, you could paint a house in one quick coat with this stuff. A nose and mouth-filling wine with a touch of game on the finish reminds you that you're drinking Syrah here.

If you like your wine bold and ready to go (we'd recommend drinking this one sooner rather than later), this wine is for you. It's not called "Big Boy Blend" for nothing!

Winemaking | This blend gets its warmer climate headiness from 55% Dry Creek Valley Syrah Noir fruit and a vintage that saw an impressive heat spike just before harvest. Balance was achieved with a 45% addition of Estrella River from the cooler Bennett Valley appellation. All fruit was gently de-stemmed, but not crushed, and underwent a 4-day cold soak before inoculation with Williams Selyem and Assmanshausen yeast. We punched down by hand three times a day until pressing at about 5 brix for the Dry Creek fruit and 3 brix for the Bennett Valley, with both lots finishing primary fermentation in barrel — all French oak, 55% new in the final blend — where it spent 17 months before bottling.

Analysis | pH: 3.74
TA: 6.24 g/L
Alcohol: 15.9%
Bottling Date: March 31, 2006
Release Date: September 18, 2006
Total Produced: 7 Barrels

Philosophy | *Every vintage, we prefer to follow the grapes' lead and offer gentle care as the wine emerges from the juice. If a wine asks for help, we provide it. If a wine is happy on its own, we simply let it be and celebrate its unique evolution.*