

2020 STAR LANE NEBBIOLO

STAR LANE VINEYARD, HAPPY CANYON OF SANTA BARBARA

ALCOHOL

13.0%

AGED

26 Months

OAK

100% Neutral Oak Barrels

HARVESTED

Sept 2020

BOTTLED

Dec 2022

CELLAR LIFE

15 years

VINTAGE

While 2020 was marked throughout California by wildfires and other challenges, the vintage in Santa Barbara and specifically Happy Canyon proved to be quite good and relatively unaffected by the challenges faced in the north of the state. Star Lane Vineyard once again showed its health and resiliency, even through normal heat spikes, and ended up producing balanced and delicious wines.

WINEMAKER NOTES

What is Nebbiolo? A winemaker must always ask themselves questions like these when handling an old variety in a new area. We were confident about testing this variety because of its natural vigor and tolerance for warmer climates, but what would that mean for its nature from Star Lane Vineyard? Having tasted several of the classics from Piedmont (not exclusively but principally Barbaresco and Barolo) we trusted the vineyard and variety to produce the aromatics, and focused upon the acid and tannin balance which can be tricky in Nebbiolo where tannin is tempted to get out of hand for a wine that otherwise feels like Pinot Noir. What we discovered was wonderful. Structure in the wine built quickly during the fermentation and we limited mixing to keep extraction slow. After barreling down into 400 liter neutral oak barrels we kept an eye on the evolution of the balance between grippy tannins and the levity brought by good acidity and employed our best tool: patience. After 26 months in barrel, we decided to bottle.

TASTING NOTES

The wine is built to last, but has more up front fruit than even we anticipated making it a unique and pleasurable offering this area. The classic aromas of rose pedal, cherry and tobacco come out at first and are framed by a bright acidity and vibrancy that plays well with the natural tannin.

