



2008 SYRAH RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY LEDBETTER FAMILY VINEYARD

This wine took 14 years to make, in a way. The grapes are grown by the Ledbetter Family on a hillside overlooking the middle reach of the Russian River Valley, a place uniquely suited for Syrah grapes. For many years, we simply called this vineyard "Preston Ranch" for the site was the previous home of the Preston Dairy. Grapes from this vineyard made Longboard's inaugural wine, the 1998 Russian River Syrah and continue to be part of our RRV Syrah blend. A few barrels were selected to represent the best wine produced from this vineyard in 2008.

The reddish soil of this vineyard combines with a climatic pattern of warm days and cool nights to consistently produce a classic Syrah that delivers a great core of fruit flavors and aromas held together by mellow tannins and a lively natural acidity. We harvest the grapes at night and deliver them cool to the winery at first light where we destem and crush them, cold-soak the must for three days and ferment it using a local yeast selection. Our winemaking is light-handed, relying more on choosing the right moment to harvest the fruit than on excessive manipulation at the winery.

As with all the wines of Longboard, the point of this wine is to strike a balance of components that manifests in a complex and layered experience that is true to the variety and the growing season. The 2008 Ledbetter Syrah delivers strata of plum and blackberry aromas and flavors with a slightly spicy overnote that we sometime describe as 'white pepper'. The acidity, tannin structure and fruitiness are counter balanced to finish with a long after taste of coffee bean notes and ensure the wine will age gracefully in the following years.

Composition: 100 % Syrah

Source: 100% Ledbetter Family Vineyard

Harvest Date: September 19th, 2008

Barrel ageing: 100% French Oak, 40% new.

Bottling Date: June 2011

