



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 Valley Syrah, and continue to be part of our Russian River Valley Syrah blend. We selected five barrels of this lot to age an additional six months and bottled them unfinned and unfiltered so that the true character of this hillside vineyard can integrate well and shine through.

The reddish volcanic 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. We cold-soak the must for three days and allow it to slowly warm up to fermentation temperatures. Our winemaking is light-handed, relying more on choosing the right moment to harvest the fruit than on excessive manipulation at the winery. The barrels are racked once in the spring after harvest and then racked again before bottling.

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 2016 Ledbetter Syrah delivers strata of plum and blackberry aromas and flavors with a slightly spicy note that we sometime describe as 'white peppercorn'. The acidity, tannin structure and fruitiness are counter balanced to finish with a long after taste. This wine will age gracefully in the following years and we can easily recommend keeping a bottle or two in your cellar to develop further. Cheers,

Oded Snakke

Oded Snakke - Owner & Winegrower

LONGBOARD

Vineyards

2016

Syrah

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

LEDBETTER FAMILY VINEYARD

Site Story: Top plateau of hillside vineyard overlooking Russian River; Red, well drained volcanic-origin soil. Sustainably-farmed, cane-pruned on VSP trellis.

Composition: 100% Syrah. unknown clone.

Appellation: Russian River Valley

Fermentation: 3 Day cold-soak, open top fermentation

Ageing: 10 months on fine lees in French Oak barrels, 50% new then racked and aged additional 12 months. Bottled unfinned and unfiltered.

Analysis: Alcohol 14.4 % TA 6.3 g/L pH 3.68

Production: 50 Cases