

2021

AVIATOR

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

196 Cases | Bottled March 6, 2023

Suggested Retail: \$25

FLYING CLOUD
WINERY

FLYING CLOUD

Flying Cloud wines are produced at Stephen Ross Wine Cellars, and the name Flying Cloud pays tribute to the Eden Prairie airport in winemaker Stephen Ross Dooley's home state of Minnesota.

VINTAGE

The 2021 vintage came off the heels of a continued drought in California. We saw a decent amount of pre-season rainfall in Paso Robles and the Edna Valley this year. However, most of the precipitation arrived during a single storm event, causing runoff that prevented much of the water from penetrating the soil. In general, the growing season was cool. Apart from one warm day on June 16 when the temperature rose to 105°F, there were no other heat spikes during the year. We experienced mild temperatures through harvest in September and October, which opened the stretch of time for picking at optimal maturity. This was a late harvest with long hang time yielding wines with concentrated flavors.

WINEMAKING

The Aviator blend was made using classic Burgundian methods of production; the grapes were de-stemmed and crushed into small stainless-steel tanks, pumped over and punched down daily during the peak of fermentation, 12 to 14 days of skin contact, lightly pressed with a state-of-the-art stainless-steel basket press, and aged in neutral French oak barrels for sixteen months.

Appellation:

Edna Valley (50% - Pinot Noir)

Paso Robles (50% - Petite Sirah and Zinfandel)

Varieties:

50% Pinot Noir, 38% Petite Sirah, 12% Zinfandel

Harvest:

Picked September 24, October 5, October 8, 2021

Fermentation:

Fermented in small open top stainless-steel refrigerated tanks.

Aging:

Aged in 2-4 times filled French oak barrels 16 months.

Alcohol:

14.0%

pH:

3.50

T.A.:

5.85 g/L



TASTING NOTES

This is a deeply pigmented wine with purple and ruby red hues. The nose is open and exudes aromas of mulberry, blackberry, mocha and black tea. It is full and rich on the palate with voluptuous tannins, fruit leather flavors and a lingering black currant fruitiness.