



## 2019 MR. NATURAL OLD VINE GRENACHE BESSON

“Mr. Natural” denominates Birichino’s zero/zero wines, those made without additions or subtractions of any sort. I’m not going to tell you this is one of the most interesting and hopeful wines we have ever created, but this is one of the most interesting and hopeful wines we have ever created. Before the 2019 harvest, Besson Grenache, as magical as it can be, was not on our short list of Mr. Natural candidates. Grenache is generally considered an oxidative grape, and Besson, as we fashion it, trades more on detail and aromatic power than weight and tannic clout. 2019 has turned out to be a very special vintage for Besson, likely the finest we have seen in the past 3 decades. Yields were half that of 2018, berry size was quite small, and thus the skin-to-juice ratio was quite high. As with the Enz Mourvèdre, there is an immediacy to the Besson Mr. Natural compared to the *normale*. This could be due to the complete lack of sulfur, the shorter elevage, the absence of the appassimento Skonkwerks fraction or, likely, some combination of all three. Regardless, despite the larger scale, darker color and slightly more brooding continence, the wine’s telltale perfume suggestive of amaro, and ninja-tannins mark its Besson provenance in spades. How long will it improve in bottle? Excellent question. Certainly for a couple years. Beyond that? We’ll keep you posted.

-Alex and John

**Harvest:** October 17 & 23, 2019

**Composition:** Grenache 100%

**Appellation:** Santa Clara Valley

**Alc:** 13.0% **TA:** 6.8g/l **pH:** 3.44

**Case Production:** 77cs

**Thanks:** R. Crumb for permission

