

BIRICHINO



2020 MOURVEDRE OLD VINES

Here we have an early contender for Wine of the Vintage. Yes, it is a bit higher in alcohol and a little more rigidity around the edges than most from this house. Yes, it ideally will be given a few months to harmonize all of its dynamic elements. But what perfume and depth!!! There seems to be a well of complexity and potential here. The variety commonly resides far on the savory/meaty end of the wine aroma spectrum. Those elements are here, though well buried. Joined with them one might find a lovely violet perfume and fruits too numerous to mention. No guilt can be attached to opening this up in the near future, though in several years this should prove a prismatic and utterly compelling wine. We had resisted attaching a specific vineyard designation until we had observed a distinctive expression from this site; 2020 has provided just that. The vineyard has carried several unofficial names over the years: Sandy Land, though that site is actually across the street a half a mile away. Some refer to it casually as the big vineyard, though not really naming it as such, and there are several blocks within the site, it is not really that big, wrapping around the Evangelho vineyard. With the grower's consent, we now refer to it as Little Big Block. Interplanted with Carignane in the late 1880s or early 1890s, these dry-farmed, own-rooted vines occupy a pocket in the deep sandscapes of Antioch [sounds like a good fantasy novel] along the Sacramento Delta in Contra Costa County.

Harvest Date: 8/17/2020
Composition: 100% Mourvèdre
Appellation: Contra Costa County
Alc: 14.5% **TA:** 6.2g/L **pH:** 3.22

