

STOLPMAN VINEYARDS

BALLARD CANYON

LA CUADRILLA 2014 *'the crew'*

TECH

VINEYARD COMPONENTS

blocks 1, 2, 3, 5, A & B

VARIETAL BLEND

80% Syrah, 12% Sangiovese & 8% Grenache

FINAL ANALYSIS

alcohol: 14.1%

VATTING/FERMENTATION

14 - 21 days

VINIFICATION

30-50% whole cluster, mostly pumped over,
few punch downs to manage tannin

COOPERAGES & ELEVAGE

neutral oak, 15 months

RELEASE DATE

April 2016

HARVEST DATE

Syrah : August 15 2014
Sangiovese : September 4, 2014 &
Grenache : October 7, 2014

TOTAL PRODUCTION

2200 cases

2434 ALAMO PINTADO AVE - PO BOX 488
LOS OLIVOS CA 93441 USA
TEL. 1 805 688 0400

NOTES

BACKGROUND

For training purposes, Ruben Solorzano gave our vineyard crew a *cuadra*, or vineyard block, back in the mid '90s. The concept evolved into our profit sharing program, in which 10% of Stolpman's total production is bottled as La Cuadrilla. We then give the profits of the Cuadrilla wine back to the crew. The education, ownership, and bonus allow Stolpman Vineyards to retain the hardest working, most dedicated and passionate men and women. The members of La Cuadrilla work for Stolpman Vineyards year-round – we don't rely on temporary migrant labor for pruning and harvest.

The Cuadrilla blend changes every year and in 2011, we decided to start having fun with the label – the black and white photography now changes every year. For the 2014 edition, we dressed Tom Stolpman up in a Mariachi costume – a good party on the vineyard absolutely must have a Mariachi band.

VINTAGE

The dark, ripe 2014 Cuadrilla, a blend of almost every block on the vineyard, sums up the rich, hedonistic growing season. Moderate warm weather produced delicious wines in balance with fresh profiles and fine tannins.

AT THE WINERY

In 2014, the wine from the training Cuadra (Syrah) was blended with two other Syrah blocks. Sashi added a very ripe lot of Grenache (8%) for even more roundness. Lastly, we declassified two La Croce fermenting tanks into La Cuadrilla - resulting in 12% Sangiovese in the final blend and adding signature bright red fruit and firm backbone.

SENSORY

Dark, rich, perfumed and perfectly ripe. Full bodied, fine tannin, and hints of cherry pit and lavender.

2014 La Cuadrilla coats the mouth and drinks way above its pay grade – Surely one of the best bottlings to date. The fact that this wine supports our wonderful extended family aside, it's truly delicious wine!