

PHARAON

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2013 Grenache – Vin de Pay des Cotes Catalanes

Produced and bottled by Dept. 66, Maury, France, Imported by Refugee Wine - Orin Swift

It was a cold, windy day and I was stuck in the Denver international airport after working the Colorado market for ten days straight. I love Colorado and the people there, but I was exhausted and all I wanted was to be home in St. Helena with my wife and my newborn daughter. I had four hours to kill and the bar was not an option. So I wandered into one of the many stores selling every iteration of Denver Bronco paraphernalia you can imagine and of all things, found a copy of *The Count of Monte Cristo*. As a boy, I read this book at least twice and of course, in high school English class it was a requirement. I can remember my teacher feverishly explaining all the hidden meanings and nuances to Dumas and his writing, and all I thought is what a great story. I found a quiet spot and settled in to read what is indeed one of my all-time favorites. I was only on the second line and the word popped out in dark italics, PHARAON. It is the name of the ship that Dantes is on when he returns to Marsellies. The ship and its name have almost no significance to the overall story, but something about it resonated with me. I found a pen and underlined the word and carried on reading.

Fast forward two years. My daughter now has a younger brother and my wife and I have moved to a bigger house. I'm unpacking a box of what my wife has labeled, and I quote, "Dave's shit" and I found the book. As we all do, I stopped unpacking, sat down, and started thumbing through the book, and there it was, the underlined word...PHARAON. As chance would have it, I needed a name for a label. The rest as they say is not history. It's simply luck. Luck that my parents didn't let my brother and I watch TV, thus forcing us to read at night, which led me to pick up this book in the first place. Luck that I was stranded in the Denver airport and needed a distraction other than a cold beer. And even more luck that I found the book again and that singular word just at the time I needed it. People often ask me how we come up with the names or images surrounding a label. Every label has a story. Some similar to this one, others are completely different, but in the end they all have one commonality; they all mean something to me or those close to me, or of course, the Denver Airport. So enjoy the wine and pick up a copy of the book. It's a great read and the wine is not bad either.

WINEMAKER NOTES

Savory aromas of blackened oak and fresh baked bread mingle with opulent cassis and candied cherries. Rich waves of dense stone fruits coat the mouth on the entry and open up into a broad mouth filling mid palate. Concentrated and structured the finish, the wine plays to the long and lingering tannin chains synonymous with the wines from this region.

BLEND

Grenache

MATURATION

75% new French Oak for 18 months. Bottle aged 5 months prior to release.

Alc/Vol

15.5%

ORIN SWIFT

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