

**PLUS!***Diamond Series Selection*

**Agharta Wines**  
**2005 'Black Label' Syrah**  
 Sonoma County  
343 Cases Produced

Until Pax Mahle, few Californians had attempted to capture the magic of the Northern Rhône, crafting great Syrah from relatively cool microclimates. Mahle had spent years studying wine, selling wine, and drinking wine, and his course was set to become a Master Sommelier – that was until a fateful trip to France and a visit to one of the world's most heralded vineyards that he realized his destiny was to be one among the vines, growing grapes and crafting his own interpretation of world-class wines. His first winery (Pax Wine Cellars) launched in 2000 and Mahle established himself as a pioneer of high-altitude, cool-climate Syrahs. He also came to symbolize the arrival of a new collecting genre – Cult Syrahs – as his wines consistently began to garner 90+ scores from Robert Parker (the highest earning an unheard-of 98 Points!). The project for Agharta Wines began in 2004 when Mahle found himself with a couple of (yet) unproven vineyards that had what he believed it would take to make some spectacular Syrah. He kept his first vintage resting in barrel for 58 months so that once it was bottled it would stand above anything and everything he had crafted prior – and it did. The wine was named Agharta after an underground recording by Miles Davis, which was in reference to a mystical place on Earth where the hills are made of gold and the rivers run with wine... a fitting name for such a gorgeous wine that proves to be worth the wait with each highly anticipated vintage.

### ACCOLADES & TASTING NOTES

The Agharta 2005 'Black Label' Syrah is the second release from Pax Mahle's highly admired wine portfolio, sourced almost entirely from Sonoma County's Alder Springs Vineyard. The wines from this site consistently exhibit the richness, concentration, energy, and vigor that Mahle feels is needed to improve in barrel for the full 'Agharta elevage' treatment. His 2005 vintage is bursting with darker fruit, showing a more roasted earth character with even more concentration than his 2004. *Robert Parker* awards this wine a knockout score of **95+ Points**: "After the mind-blowing 2004 Agharta Syrah, I had high expectations that it would be followed by additional great wines, and those hopes were answered with the 2005 Black Label, a blend of 97% Syrah, 2% Grenache and 1% Viognier. Aged 64 months (which must be a record in California) it is another spectacular effort from winemaker/proprietor Pax Mahle. It boasts a gorgeously dense plum/purple color as well as stunning notes of black raspberries, blackberries, licorice and camphor. This complex red builds incrementally on the palate resulting in a full-bodied, concentrated, complex wine that is bursting at the seams and loaded with potential." Enjoy now until 2015.

### REORDERS

**2005 'Black Label' Syrah**  
 Winery Direct: \$80.00 /bottle

**Gold Medal Wine Store price:**

**2-Bottle Members: \$69.00 /bottle**

**4-Bottle/ Multi-Series Members: \$65.00 /bottle**

\*2 bottle min. order. Availability is extremely limited.  
 (plus shipping)

[www.goldmedalwineclub.com](http://www.goldmedalwineclub.com)

800-266-8888

