



# Platinum Plus!

## The Ojai Vineyard | 2014 Syrah White Hawk Vineyard, Santa Barbara County

For years Ojai Vineyards and its owner Adam Tolmach has presented wines that surpass the norm or, in some circumstances, exceed their circumstances. Such is the case with this exciting offering from one of the Central Coast's finest wineries.

Adam Tolmach is a long-time winemaking practitioner with a Viticultural degree from the famed University of California Davis. His early career featured such iconic wineries as Zaca Mesa Winery and Vineyards and the innovative Au Bon Climat Winery that he co-owned with Jim Clendenen.

Tolmach is an ardent adherent of terroir-driven wines and this White Hawk Vineyard Syrah is an absolute requisite for anyone who cares about a wine's birthplace and surroundings.

"This vineyard is planted on hillsides of pure sand in Cat Canyon near Los Alamos, which is north northeast of the City of Lompoc. The place must be considered a difficult growing area at best," remarked Tolmach. "The Syrah vines struggle to survive since sand can hold neither nutrients nor water to any degree. The resultant production is absurdly low making the fruit among the most expensive we utilize. But the wine that can be made from this spot turns out to be as unique as the vineyard's frowzy look. The climate is just cool enough that the acidity level never comes into play and, for some reason, there is always a zesty tang apparent that makes this wine seem to dance."

Tolmach also explained that wines from this vineyard tend to age remarkably well, and although they are not sweet, possess a jammy sweetness on the palate that sits well on a cold winter evening.

Ojai Vineyards has remained an innovative fixture on the Central Coast wine scene. Their wines have scored remarkably high for almost the past four decades and figure to continue their extraordinary performances in the years to come.

Tolmach enjoys working with terroir-driven fruit and explains that factor thusly. "There are so many variables in our business, each little aspect affects the ultimate quality of the wine. Terroir is even more important since each grape possesses its own nuances. In my mind, the trick is finding that unique nuance and elegance. The ultimate objective in winemaking, in my opinion, is to do next to nothing and let the vineyard express its unique personality. Given all that, I'm afraid winemaking is my real passion, the opportunity of crafting a truly great wine."

We know you will enjoy this expressive Ojai Vineyards 2014 Syrah White Hawk Vineyard. It's a truly incredible wine.



### Accolades & Tasting Notes

**95 POINTS** - Antonio Galloni's *Vinous* & Jeb Dunnuck

**92 POINTS** - Robert Parker's *The Wine Advocate*

From the well-respected White Hawk Vineyard, this vintage has intense, red berry fruit that is both succulent and juicy. Currents, lavender, and spices provide a marvelous aroma supported by well-rounded texture and fine tannins. Finish is long and luxurious. 100% Syrah. Aged for 20 months in French Oak.



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