

PALMINA

2008 *Savoia* Santa Barbara County



There are a number of meanings to the word “blend”. An occurrence of thorough mixing. To combine into one. To mix together different elements. To harmonize. And Savoia is all of those – and more. Sporting the black label that indicates a Palmina wine of exceptional character, Savoia is a blend of Nebbiolo (50%), Barbera (25%) and Syrah (25%). A highly sought after wine since its first release in 2002, Savoia is named after the house of Savoy who ruled over both France’s Rhône Valley and Italy’s Piemonte in the 1400’s, and so is perhaps not as radical a combination of varietals as one might first think.

Continuing the theme of three, the grapes each hail from a different vineyard and even a different appellation within Santa Barbara County. Rancho Sisquoc in the Santa Maria Valley for the Nebbiolo,

Syrah from the Alisos Vineyard in Santa Barbara County’s Los Alamos Valley and Barbera from the Honea Vineyard in the Santa Ynez Valley come together to bring different elements to the wine, yet meld into one working together in harmony. All echoing the region of the House of Savoy of old with a maritime climate of warm days and cool nights..

The three varietals were each picked at their individual peak ripeness, harvested by hand and then vinified separately in the winery. After 18 months, blending trials determined those barrels that would best bring their own varietal-ness and yet support and allow the other varietals to work so well together – the combining into one aspect. This young Savoia was then returned to neutral 500 liter Slovenian puncheons to “marry” and integrate for an additional 18 months. A little after three years from first barreling, 2008 Savoia was bottled, the coveted black label applied and a wax seal applied by hand.

In the literal meaning of the word “blend”, one should not be able to tell where one component ends and the other begins. No lines of demarcation should be observed, and even in its youth the different character of each varietal in Savoia seamlessly works with the others. Three vineyard terroirs and three varietals all intermingling to bring delight to the three senses. To the sight, a beautiful garnet color with crimson edges that conveys the vibrancy of the wine. A swirl rewards the sense of smell with a cornucopia of aromas – cherry compote, red licorice, some smoky earthy notes and hints of floral rose hips. The taste buds are first refreshed with a liting acidity and notes of cranapple and red plum, with refined tannins reminiscent of loose darjeeling tea and rhubarb. Pomegranate and berry notes merge with spice nuances of orange peel, cinnamon stick and mocha, 2008 Savoia’s texture is both silky and bright and rewarded with a vivacious and lengthy finish. Truly a triple delight for the senses, proof of the power of the blend and a true representation of the beauty of Santa Barbara Wine Country.