

# Montemaggiore

## SYRAH

DRY CREEK VALLEY • SONOMA COUNTY

PAOLO'S VINEYARD • ESTATE GROWN

2014

### Technical Data

Varietal Blend.....	100% Syrah
Average Sugar at Harvest.....	23.7° Brix
Alcohol .....	14.8%
Cooperage .....	100% French
Percentage New Oak.....	22%
Harvest Dates .....	Sep 18 - 23, 2014
Bottling Date.....	Apr 2016
Cases Produced.....	200
Optimum Consumption.....	2017-2026

### Tasting & Serving Comments

Aromas of brambly blackberries and cassis meld with those of nutmeg and white pepper. Flavors on the palate are similar, being framed by structured tannins and a long finish.

Paolo's Vineyard Syrah pairs well with pork tenderloin, salmon grilled on a cedar plank, pasta bolognese, grilled portobellos, bacon rösti, lamb burgers, and sheep's milk cheeses.

Montemaggiore Syrah will improve with time in your cellar. In its youth, the wine will flaunt its fruit characteristics, while over time it will gain further complexity and the individual flavors will integrate. If opened within the first few years of release, please decant the wine for several hours.

### Vineyard Notes

Located on a mountainside high above Dry Creek Valley, the rocky soils of Montemaggiore's estate vineyards produce intensely flavored grapes at naturally low yields. Using biodynamic practices and organic materials, Paolo's Vineyard is farmed without chemical fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides.

### Vintage Profile

2014 was an exceptional vintage for Montemaggiore wines. The vines broke their winter dormancy very early due to a dry winter and early spring. Summer temperatures were moderate, although a cooler spell in mid-August slowed down ripening. Harvest started a week early and was relatively dry. The excellent growing season resulted in grapes with balanced acidity, ripe tannins, and reasonable sugar levels.



### Winemaker Notes

Two individual blocks of Syrah were hand-harvested four days apart in September. The grapes traveled less than 100 yards to the estate winery where they were destemmed but not crushed, then carefully hand-sorted at the berry level. About 20% of whole clusters (including stems) were added for complexity. All the grapes underwent a cold soak in open-top stainless steel tanks, then were inoculated with the northern Rhône Syrah yeast. The whole berry fermentation with punchdowns for cap management brought out the wine's complexity on the palate. After a gentle pressing in a stainless steel basket press in order to limit astringency, the wine aged for 18 months in 100% French oak barrels.

