



NEYERS

MOURVÈDRE

Evangelho Vineyard
Contra Costa County

2016



A TALE OF DISCOVERY

“I may have known a little bit about Mourvèdre in 1980 when I first visited Domaine Tempier, but if I did it was buried pretty deep in my subconscious. I was puzzled. The wine had an unfamiliar aroma and the flavors were foreign to me. Still, I kept tasting, hoping to figure it out. We arrived in Paris where we’d selected a restaurant named l’Olympe, about which there was a significant industry buzz. It was terrific and was made all the better when the manager suggested we try a bottle of 1962 Domaine Tempier Bandol, which by law, Bandol is from 50% to 100% Mourvèdre. The wine was brilliant, a huge success in every way, and I began to think that my original judgments had been a bit harsh. We then began traveling with a chef from Chez Panisse, and he insisted on buying us a rare magnum of Domaine Tempier and I was blown away by it. The classic wines on the list seemed to matter less and less. What’s going on, I asked myself? I still hadn’t answered that question when two days later we showed up for lunch at Domaine Tempier in Bandol. The meal was simply extraordinary. We were served three magnums of Bandol Rouge with soup—I have the vintages written down someplace. Then with the leg of lamb, three more magnums were opened and decanted. The last was the 1959 Bandol Rouge, and I don’t think I’ve ever had a finer bottle of red wine.

I’ve been crazy about the magic of Mourvèdre ever since my trip to France. There isn’t much Mourvèdre planted in California, but when we find some, we buy it. In 2016 we produced one of our finest bottlings of the varietal Mourvèdre to date, a wine made from fruit off the 125 year-old vines at Frank Evangelho’s vineyard just outside of Oakley, in northeastern Contra Costa County. The yields from this dry, sandy soil are low, but the quality is high. The wine displays a magnificent combination of rustic earthiness coupled with exotic wild cherry flavor. Perhaps its greatest quality is the youthful exuberance that brings the wine into balance while young. Still, it’s a wine that will age with dignity for many years.” —Bruce Neyers

ORIGIN: Contra Costa County

VINEYARD: Evangelho Vineyard

BARREL PROGRAM: 100% neutral French oak

COMPOSITION: 100% Mourvèdre

ALCOHOL: 13.3%

CASES PRODUCED: 145