

2009 *Tempranillo*



VINEYARDS

Dunnigan Hills
90% *Tempranillo*
5% *Graciano*

Alexander Valley
5% *Cabernet Sauvignon*

BARRELS

100% Barrel Aged

20% new from:
Magrenan | French Allier,
coopered in Spain

80% from 2-5 year old barrels:
Magrenan | French Allier
Trust | Hungarian Oak, hand split
and slow toasted over oak fires
World Cooperage | 3 year air dried
American Oak

CHEMISTRY

Appellation: Dunnigan Hills

TA: .63

pH: 3.95

Alcohol: 13.9%

Production: 5,500 cases

GRAPES

The *Tempranillo* and *Graciano* vines grown in our Matchbook Vineyard in the Dunnigan Hills are from cuttings imported from the *Pesquera* region of Spain. While the traditional earthy and spicy flavors are evident from these old-world varietals, the Matchbook *Tempranillo* shows its California upbringing in the expansive aromas of blueberries, spice and herbs of Provence. Rich flavors of red and black berries, cinnamon and clove are followed by toasted oak, vanilla and cocoa powder. Fine integrated tannins hold it all together in this seamless, well-balanced wine. Serve with spicy tapas, prosciutto and figs, or even a favorite pesto dish.

CELLAR

The grapes were gently crushed and fermented in small, temperature-controlled stainless steel tanks. Specially selected yeast (*Assmannshausen*) was used on two-thirds of the lots to enhance color and flavor extraction without harsh tannins. The other third underwent a native fermentation which gives this wine intensity and complexity. The tanks were pumped over twice a day until nearly dry, then pressed and aged in oak barrels for 18 months. We like to use an assortment of French, Hungarian and American oak and only 20% new to avoid over-oaking. This wine was further enhanced by blending in 5% *Graciano* and 5% *Cabernet Sauvignon* to give it depth, richness and improve structure.

STORY

As a farm kid growing up in the late 1950's and early 1960's, John Giguere was a confirmed pyromaniac starting various things on fire such as his father's wheat fields. He and his brother graduated to launching rockets, which often blew up at some stage of the journey resulting in more random fires, and calls to the local fire department. They eventually grew out of this fascination with the Matchbook but still have fond memories of the power they possessed.

