

ANDREW MURRAY VINEYARDS

magnum club

because size does matter

rant and apology and thank you

So much has been going on in these last few days around the winery—some good and some not so good. So I will use this (at least in part) as my space to vent. You see, it all started with a phone call from a freelance writer for the Wine Spectator asking me about the sale of our winery. . . At first I thought that she was kidding, or ribbing me for some of the trials and tribulations that we have been going through here lately. But no, she had a press release from the new owners of our old property that stated that the Za***** Family (name withheld intentionally) had purchased the Andrew Murray Winery. While that was never our winery name, it started a chain of very confusing events that is unfolding as I write this. Then we started getting calls from our friends and neighbors in the Santa Ynez Valley that they read a press release that insinuated the same lies—that we had sold our winery. It turns out that the new owners of our old property decided to trade on our good name and Rhone-Centric past and release a press release that they had in fact bought more than a vineyard—they claimed that they bought the Andrew Murray Winery. I was confused and a bit disoriented at first about why they would do this to us. Then I just got plain mad. We have been crafting wine under our trade name (albeit my own name) since 1993. We have been making a "name" for ourselves and by ourselves for over a decade. When I confronted them about using our name in their press release, they claimed that they were simply doing me a favor. These are favors that I can honestly do without. Anyway, this whole rant is leading up to my apology to you all. I am most sorry if you come into contact with this erroneous press release in any way, shape, or form. I want to assure that we are not going anywhere but forward. The reason that I know this is you, you, and YOU. Over the last few days, in the sleepless hours of the predawn light, I kept coming back to an overwhelming feeling that everything was going to be ok. It would all work out somehow, because of you all. You all have been so encouraging through our transition. You all have been so patient through all of this. You all give me so much strength. So, the rant that became an apology has come full circle and is now a heartfelt Thank You. Thank You all for your support. You may never know how much I appreciate you all.

syrah hillside reserve

Truth be told, I do not like the "Reserve" designation, but somehow it just fits with this wine, but perhaps not in the way that you might think obvious. Yes we did age it a bit longer in new French Oak, and yes we held it a bit longer in bottle before release, but there is nothing reserved about this wine. It is actually quite over the top in just about everything—color, flavor, richness, and tannins. So practice some restraint and do not open this one tonight, no matter how tempting it may be. Hide it in your cellar, stash it away under the stairs and forget about it. Come back to it in a year or four. Be "reserved" in your zeal to try this one. It will reward you. I promise.

Get ready for a year of heavy hitting Single-Vineyard Syrah Bottlings:

March: Hillside Reserve

May: Syrah Bien Nacido Vyd

October: Syrah Watch Hill Vyd

December: Roasted Slope Vineyard