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MOUNT MAJURA VINEYARD

2008 GRACIANO

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Mount Majura Vineyard's hand-crafted wines benefit from the unique combination of red volcanic limestone-containing soils, an easterly aspect and a cool climate. These features are consistently expressed in intense, elegant and complex wines. Grapes are sourced only from the Mount Majura Vineyard, in the Canberra District.

GRACIANO

There is some similarity in climate between Canberra and the leading Spanish regions Rioja and Ribera del Duero, which led us to plant Tempranillo and then Graciano. Graciano is a minor variety in Rioja, considered to be of very high quality used in blends for its good acidity and. In our vineyard it is somewhat difficult to grow and late ripening, but shows great distinctiveness.

2008 VINTAGE

Up until early vintage, the cumulative degree days were relatively high, but more by virtue of warm nights than warm days, with very few being hot. Budburst, flowering and ripening were all early. Humidity was higher than normal, making it one of the 'softest' seasons we've experienced. We had a week of hot weather in mid-March, far less severe than in SA, and well within the tolerance of our vines with good soil and adequate water. The compressed ripening observed even in other local vineyards on lighter soils did not occur here. Yields were up, but ripened well by healthy canopies.

WINEMAKER

Frank van de Loo came to winemaking with a background in the plant sciences and has completed the Wine Science degree at Charles Sturt University. A strong believer that "wine is made in the vineyard" he considers himself first and foremost the viticulturist.

WINEMAKING

Hand picked 23 April 2008 at 12.2 Baumé. Fermented in an open vat with hand plunging. Matured in older French oak barriques. Bottled under screwcap October 2009; 203 dozen made.

TASTING NOTES

A very distinctive aroma: florals, black pepper, dried herbs, gum honey and redcurrant. A light to medium bodied wine, though with deep colour. Bright red berry fruit flavours and pepper dominate the palate which shows the fresh acid of the variety.

AVAILABILITY

Released November 2009, expected to be available for most of 2010.
Order from (02) 6262 3070 or sales@mountmajura.com.au

CELLARING GUIDE

Graciano is generally suited to aging, and we hope that this wine will age well, but this is only our third vintage bottled, so time will tell.

