



TERRA ROSA 2015 NOTES

I had been making wine in Chile for three years, before I crossed over the Andes to check out what was going on in Mendoza. That would have been the summer of 1977. Someone suggested I look up this guy Gustavo, who did his soil work with a hand plow pulled by his horse. Needless to say that after my experience with the rather mechanized vineyards of Chile, this combo raised all sorts of romantic notions. How could grapes farmed like this not be fantastic! Back then this practice was not uncommon in Mendoza, but it's pretty much given way to tractors these days. And even those narrow, low vineyards, which were planted to accommodate horse and plow, are being replanted to higher bearing, wider spaced configurations.

My favorite of our vineyards is the Iris malbec vineyard far down in the southern reaches of the Valle de Uco. It is planted in the old style, though these days a narrow gauge crawler (like we used back in the day at Laurel Glen) does the cultivation. Normally, Terra Rosa is a blend of malbec from the Iris vineyard and the softer fruit of our Luján vineyard. But the 2015 Terra Rosa was harvested entirely from the more robust and deeper flavored Iris vineyard. A hot summer followed by pre-harvest rains played havoc with the heavier soil Luján vineyards. By contrast, the Iris vineyard, planted in the sandier, better drained soils of the southern Valle de Uco, brushed off the rainfall and produced a fragrant and intense malbec. Just the way we like it!