



# PESSAGNO

WINERY

2003 Syrah

Idyll Times Vineyard  
San Benito County

**Harvest Date**

*September 27, 2003*

**Harvest Brix**

28.4

**Months in Oak**

*Twelve*

**Alcohol**

14.8%

**pH**

3.74

**TA**

*7.40 grams/liter*

**Rs**

*Dry*

**37 cases bottled**

*October 10, 2005*

**Suggested Retail**

*\$35.00*

THE VINEYARD

Located at the base of the Eastern foothills of San Benito County, Idyll Times Vineyard is sheltered from the winds of “the Mistral” climate, characterized by warm, breezy days and cool nights. The soil is sparse and shallow, restricting root development and canopy growth. These conditions are ideal for the sometimes overly vigorous and cool climate loving Syrah grape.

THE VINTAGE

A warmer than usual winter resulted in an early budbreak. Spring, however, was particularly cool and returned plant development to a more normal schedule. Several major heat waves in June and July again gave the impression that 2003 might be an early year, but Mother Nature changed her mind and brought cool weather in the form of fog and light rain for the remainder of the growing season. As a result, most of our fruit was harvested about two weeks later than average, thus providing a great deal of beneficial “hang time”.

THE WINEMAKING

This vineyard typically produces an extremely limited amount of highly concentrated fruit, and this year was no exception. To accentuate the fruit character and soften the tannin structure, a selected yeast strain from France was used for fermentation. In mid-summer of 2004, the wine was racked barrel-to-barrel, to incorporate a small amount of tannin softening oxygen.

TASTING NOTES

So far, every wine we grow at Idyll Times Vineyard is opulent and showy, with forward fruit and jammy flavors. Blackberry, plum, and licorice are dominant in the aroma, while French oak nuances complement the bouquet. This wine begs a grilled steak, hearty meat, game dishes, and strong cheeses.

Stephen Pessagno, Winemaker