



IPO WINES

COUNTRY
USA

REGION
California

APELLATION
San Luis Obispo County

SOIL TYPE
Loamy

VARIETAL(S)
100% Syrah

FARMING
Sustainable

WINEMAKER
John Alban



2018 Alban "Seymour's" Syrah

IMPORTED BY IPO Wines

ABOUT THE PRODUCER

Starting in 1985, John Alban planted grapes for other people until he bought an estate in 1989. Alban Vineyards' is the first American winery and vineyard established exclusively for Rhone Varieties. Alban came to be a pioneer of the Rhone Rangers movement, and is considered one of the most influential American Rhone producers. Robert Parker's declared in The Wine Advocate that John Alban is "...the spiritual and qualitative leader of the movement..."

On beginning to grow Viognier, Alban stated "I almost single-handedly doubled the world's acreage," referring to a time when its cultivation was reduced to 50 acres (20 ha) in two areas of the Rhône Valley, Condrieu and Château-Grillet. Alban's work, along with that of Josh Jensen of Calera Wine Company in San Benito County, helped to significantly expand plantings of Viognier in California at a time when the varietal was near extinction.

WINE NOTES

One of my first thoughts in setting up my winery was that I would not name wines for family. My first Syrah was dubbed Reva- which is my mother's name, almost as a very organic afterthought. Within moments of unveiling that wine, my father asked, 'So?' I quickly realized that was shorthand for: "So when will there be a wine named for me?" If anyone deserves such a tribute, it is unquestionably my father. A practicing physician since the age of 21, part of the army aircorp during World War II, planning to retire now that he is 93, Sy is the care giver we all dream to find when the time comes that we are in need.

Atop the most distant peak from our winery and main vineyard there is a dense vein of flint that is mixed with chalk and sandstone. This soil produces the grapes that make Seymour's: aromatics of Asian spices, and flavors of smoked meats, graphite, and licorice. This syrah is our most structured and broad.

Like Reva and Lorraine, Seymour's is aged 3.5 years in a mix of new and used French oak barrels after undergoing open top fermentation by its native yeasts; then bottle unfined and unfiltered.

100 points, "Lastly, and another perfect wine, the 2018 Syrah Seymour's is a tiny production release (bottled only in magnum) that comes from a windswept, higher elevation vineyard of very thin soils. It's always the most structured and powerful of the trio of Syrah, and the 2018 is no exception, offering an incredible array of cassis, blackcurrants, smoky earth, cured meats, and liquid violets. It reminds me of the 2015 Côte Rôtie La Turque from Guigal with its pure, masculine, meaty Syrah character and is full-bodied, perfectly balanced, and lengthy. It's just insanely good, although not for those looking for instant gratification. It deserves 5-6 years of bottle age and will evolve for decades if stored properly." - Jeb Dunnuck