



IPO WINES

COUNTRY
USA

REGION
California

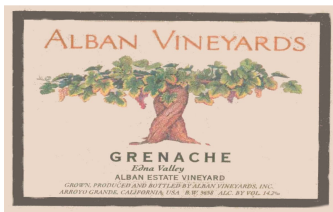
APPELLATION
San Luis Obispo County

SOIL TYPE
Loamy

VARIETAL(S)
5% Syrah
95% Grenache

FARMING
Sustainable

WINEMAKER
John Alban



2021 Alban Grenache

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

Those of you who have followed Alban Vineyards for a while are likely aware that whereas Viognier sparked the winery, and Syrah may very well have 'put it on the map', Grenache has been our unwavering obsession. It started over an argument with a dear friend from the San Joaquin Valley who is a BRILLIANT grape grower- we met in school and he now supervises the largest vineyard operation in the world. Back in the day, he told me that of all my hair brained ideas, trying to make Grenache into a fancy pants red wine was the silliest of them all. A few years later I was apprenticing with Jacques Reynaud at Ch. Rayas- which actually may have been the 'silliest' thing I've ever done (I loved every minute of it), determined to figure out how to grow and produce a California Grenache that people might just respect. Obviously a lot has changed over the ensuing 30 years and Grenache is fast becoming a Central Coast darling. For the west side of Paso Robles it has become the soul of a large portion of the area's best wines.

95-97 points, "Based on 95% Grenache and 5% Syrah, the 2021 Grenache has a juicy, upfront style in its blackberries, blueberries, pepper, lavender, and violet-like aromas and flavors. With a big, exotic, full-bodied mouthfeel and a terrific mid-palate, it brings a powerful, opulent, yet classic 2021 focused style." - Jeb Dunnuck