

# ROBERT SINSEY VINEYARDS

ABRAXAS, VIN DE TERROIR 2019



*Scintilla Sonoma Vineyard, Los Carneros*



- CCOF Certified Organic Vineyards
- Grown in RSV's Scintilla Sonoma Vineyard
- Delicate whole-cluster pressed fruit
- Fermented dry
- No barrels for a bright, pure and true wine
- Elegant glass stoppered 750ml bottles
- Cork finished magnums

## **Winegrowing Notes**

RSV's organic farming model was created to not only make better wine but, in the words of Rudolph Steiner, "to heal an ailing earth" through regenerative farming practices that sequester more carbon than is released or produced. These methods not only reduce our carbon footprint; they produce better wine from healthier, more resilient vines.

The organic, regenerative Scintilla Sonoma Vineyard was cobbled together in the late '90's from a horse ranch, an abandoned Christmas tree farm and fields of detritus. The soil was compacted and either too rich in horse manure or lacking in organic material from years of abuse and neglect. RSV spent decades growing soil balancing cover crops to heal an ailing earth.

The vines, planted in adjacent blocks of Riesling, Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc and Gewürztraminer, naturally access the nutrients they need from the decomposing cover crop and compost. The grapes ripen slowly in the cooler Carneros region, developing deep and complex flavors while maintaining bright, natural acidity. Each variety is harvested independently with almost a month passing between the Gewürztraminer and Riesling picks. All the grapes are hand-harvested at night to retain freshness, whole cluster pressed and cool fermented in a method that only enhances the deep, complex flavors while maintaining a vibrant mouthfeel. Each vintage is blended by taste to create a naturally balanced, delicious wine.

## **Tasting Notes**

Distinctively unique and refreshing, Abraxas is exemplary of an organically farmed, well crafted, terroir-driven cuvée of Riesling, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris and Gewürztraminer. It is a shimmering beauty of a wine, with aromas of chamomile, lemongrass and vanilla blossom that lead into an array of juicy, yet crisp fruit flavors like Meyer lemon, kumquat, grapefruit, Anjou pear, honeydew melon and lychee. Generous layers of fruit are balanced by a firm mineral backbone with hints of briny oyster shell and flint with a zippy finish.

**FINE WINES. ORGANIC VINES.**

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## ***Abraxas!***

The cat's name was "Ism." I believe I was in an altered state when I named the scrawny black and white kitten I had recently rescued from a wood pile next to my house in Mar Vista. It was 1980, I was enrolled in the Art Center College of Design and, as any self-respecting pseudo-intellectual college student would, I had either "Punk" or "Art Rock" on the turntable. One of my favorite altered state discs was a repetitive, driving, syncopated and contagiously danceable "Under Heavy Manners" by guitarist Robert Fripp with lyrics sung by David Byrne. The lyrics, quirkily performed with anxiety-inducing-charm, were a list of "-isms" i.e., Euphemism, Pessimism, Pointillism, Nihilism, Negativism, Positivism, Cynicism, Terrorism... etc., ending with the refrain: "I am resplendent in divergence" called out without backing music as if it were a life-affirming/self-convincing mantra. From then on, or at least for the next few months, everything was just another "-ism" and divergence from the norm was a conscious decision.

The spirit of divergence continues to influence our decisions... like selling the winery and buying a farm. We planted Pinot Noir when consumers were buying Cabernet and made a dry Rosé when sweet White Zin was all the rage. We produced elegant, lower alcohol wines when consumers were lining up for bombastic fruit bombs and we quit making Chardonnay when it was at peak popularity and put our energies into aromatic white varieties instead.

Abraxas is resplendent in divergence. An anomaly amongst the mostly Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc varietal whites that dominate the shelves. Instead, this single vineyard wine is made of four aromatic varieties - Riesling, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris and Gewürztraminer grown in RSV's organically farmed Scintilla Sonoma Vineyard in Carneros. If you are new to it, It will become the wine you never knew you needed. If you've been enjoying it for years, then you are already resplendent in divergence.

