



**BELL**

WINE CELLARS

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## Dry Rosé 2008 Syrah Sierra Foothills

### Background

Bell Wine Cellars is committed to handcrafting limited-edition bottlings of extraordinary wines that best reflect the terroir of their vineyards and the care and passion of their growers. During his time spent at Chateau Loudenne in the Haut Medoc in Bordeaux, Anthony was often served Rosé as a pre-dinner aperitif on the patio overlooking the Gironde River. The perfect red wine drinker's white wine, Rosé has all the flavors of a red, with the bright, lively acidity and fruit of a white wine. A wonderful aperitif!

### The Wine

Our Rosé is a bone dry wine, produced by drawing unfermented Canterbury Vineyard Syrah juice from the fermentation tank 18 hours after the grapes were crushed into the tank. The deep pink color comes from the skin pigments extracted during the crushing process. The juice is cold-fermented in stainless steel tank to retain the fruity fermentation esters, using a recently isolated Rosé yeast strain (known to produce fruity wines). The young wine was stabilized immediately after it finished fermenting to prevent a secondary malo-lactic fermentation. The wine was polish filtered prior to bottling in December.

### Vintage Notes

The 2008 growing season began with heavy rains which soon waned and for the second year in a row the Valley received about 60% of normal rainfall. The dry soils and warm spring led to an early bud break. The frost season was one of the worst in 30 years, with 22 to 24 days of protection required. Areas that had not experienced frost were not spared and, once all the grapes were harvested, our total crop was off 40%. Some rain occurred during bloom and the summer was relatively cool, delaying veraison. Green thinning and canopy management were a necessity to bring vines into balance. A heat spell over Labor Day brought maturity levels along quickly and then cooled down to allow gradual ripening. Light rains during the latter part of harvest had little impact. Overall, the low yielding vintage has produced elegant wines with deep color, high natural acidity and firm tannins.

### Tasting Notes

Our dry Rosé is a delightful accompaniment to all summertime festivities and fish, poultry, and shellfish. The rich fruit flavors in particular make the wine an excellent accompaniment to Pan-Asian cuisine and spicy eastern dishes. The wine has a delightful pink color, with gorgeous floral aromas, bright fruit flavors on the palate and a crisp, refreshing finish.

### Technical Analysis

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Varietal:     | Syrah (100%)     |
| Appellation:  | Sierra Foothills |
| Harvest Date: | August 27, 2008  |
| Total Acid    | 0.57 gm/100ml    |
| pH            | 3.54             |
| Alcohol       | 13.9%            |
| Bottle Date   | December 2008    |
| Production    | 155 cases        |

