



2015 Napa Valley Refosco, Matthiasson Vineyard

Refosco Nostrano originates in the Friuli region of Italy and Slovenia. While most Refosco in the U.S. is misnamed, and is actually Mondeuse noire, true Refosco budwood was imported from Italy and officially released in the late '90s. We have one of the only plantings in California. An ancient grape, Refosco was first mentioned in print in 1409 at a banquet for Pope Gregory XII. It is distantly related to Syrah and Pinot noir.

Refosco thrives in our moderate marine-influenced climate at our home down in the foggy and breezy mouth of the Napa Valley. The wine is 100 percent Refosco.

The grapes were destemmed and crushed, and fermented in a very small stainless steel tank. We did a mixture of manual punch downs and pump-overs. We pressed after 18 days on the skins, and aged the wine in neutral barrels for 18 months. We bottled unfined and unfiltered.

Our Refosco is always defined by its balance between fruitiness and earthiness, and its full soft tannins. A happy wine, it is one of our favorites to drink at home.

The pH is 3.87, the TA is 5.6 g/l, and the alcohol is 12.6%. 103 cases produced.

The Vineyard

The Refosco represents 5 rows in our home ("Matthiasson") vineyard in the Western Oak Knoll area of Napa Valley. The vines were planted in 1996. We grafted the budwood onto the mature Merlot vines in 2008. Organically managed, with fruit trees at the ends of the rows and flowering bushes throughout for "good bug" habitat, the vines are serenaded throughout the season by kids, coyotes, owls, bees, and the occasional roar of one of our old tractors.