



## 2005 Canis Major Syrah

*Of all our Canis Major wines, the Unti Vineyard Syrah is the one with a "wild" side. We think of it as our Marilyn Monroe wine - seductive and sexy, full and voluptuous - where dark, ripe fruit and French oak combine into something special.*

2005 Vintage

GOLD MEDAL • 2009 Grand Harvest Awards

Silver Medal • 2009 SF International Wine Competition

Silver • 2008 Sonoma County Harvest Fair

Silver • 2009 SF Chronicle Wine Competition

2004 Vintage

DOUBLE GOLD MEDAL - 2007 Sonoma County Harvest Fair

2002 Vintage

3 Puffs (92/100 points) - Connoisseurs Guide to California Wine

EXCELLENT (90/100 points) - Wine Enthusiast Magazine

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### Unti Vineyard, Dry Creek Valley

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George Unti farms a diverse vineyard along Dry Creek Valley's eastern half and we are excited to be into "year four" of our Syrah adventure with him. Syrah is a relative newcomer to Dry Creek Valley and our block (3 rows totaling 186 vines) was planted in the mid 1990's and is just now reaching maturity. The block is located in the lower section of George's vineyard near the Dry Creek and it appears that the collection of growing factors - clone, rootstock and soils - is a good match, with balanced canopy growth and fruit set.

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### Brenda's Winemaking

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Fermentation took place in an open top tank, with 3 times per day punch-downs. The wine was barreled down dirty and malolactic fermentation took place in barrel. Brenda's oak regime was 100% French, with approximately 40% new Bel Air barrels. This marks the third year that Brenda has used Bel Air cooperage for her Syrah, and it shows in the wine's flavors and structure. Bel Air oak extraction is subtle yet provides wonderful, complex wood flavors and tannins. The wine spent 20 months in barrel before its June bottling.

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### Tasting Notes

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Seductive aromas of black fruits and spice are followed by a super luscious entry with a signature "Unti Syrah" fruit profile of ripe dark plum and jammy blackberries. Beautiful and integrated Bel Air French oak wood tannins and flavors of sweet caramel fill out the mid pallet and finish. The wine is full bodied with a velvety and voluptuous finish.



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### Information

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Vintage:	2005
Appellation:	Dry Creek Valley
Vineyard:	Unti Vineyard
Alcohol:	15.5%
Produced:	177 cases



*The constellation 'Canis Major' is famous the world over; resembling a large dog, it is known as 'The Greater Dog'. Canis Major seems a fitting name for our "big dog" wines.*

**Brenda & Chris Lynch, Owners**

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