

# BIRICHINO



Predawn Harvest, 1890s Mourvedre, Antioch

## 2021 VIN GRIS

It's a little known fact that *used-car salespeople* harbor ardently dim views of *winemakers'* credibility, and their assessments of their own wines. Every year we hear, "Blah blah blah, best vintage ever, blah blah blah." To this we reply, 2021 looks to be - top to bottom - our best vintage ever. PLUS, 2021 sees a significant leap in refinement in our Vin Gris, the happy confluence of an excellent year, and an upgrade in our primary supply of Grenache to a benchland vineyard on the western edge of the Salinas Valley, immediately below the rise of the Santa Lucia Range.

These vineyards produce wonderfully aromatic grapes with fine acidity [the Malvasia sits 2.5 miles due east] which complement our usual old vine Cinsault, Mourvèdre and Carignane from the 1880s and 1890s, and 1920s, and some fresh-faced teenybopper Vermentino from Carneros. Hand harvested, and fermented native in stainless in one long, sequential co-fermentation, these traditional meridional varieties combine to produce a wonderfully prismatic, elevenesque wine with great perfume and sustain; familiar, yet achieving an extra **Tufnelian\*** push over the cliff into – if you close your eyes and dream – the azure waters of the Mediterranean, and aromas of stone fruits, rosehips, violets and fragrant Provençal herbs.

**Composition:** Grenache 70%,  
Mourvèdre 12% Cinsault 9%,  
Carignane 5%, Vermentino 4%,  
**Appellation:** California

