



DARA

SANTA BARBARA

Dara is a collaboration between winemaker Gary Burk and his wife, Teresa Gasca-Burk, to produce exceptional Sauvignon Blanc, Syrah and Grenache in Santa Barbara County. Gary, who also produces Costa de Oro Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, developed the project out of a desire to work with new and different varietals.

Working with Bob Lindquist at Oupé Wine Cellars for eight years, Gary developed a passion for both Old and New World styles and, in particular, Syrah and Grenache. Santa Barbara is renowned as a growing region for Rhône varietals, easily yielding hallmark characteristics: bright, lively fruit with spicy, earthy complexity.

Dara is not a project for super-extracted wines. The Burks prefer wines with layers of complexity that gradually unfold in the glass. Dara wines typically experience an 18-day fermentation with two punch-downs per day, and are aged in François Freres oak (less than 25% new) for 12–16 months. The wines are bottled unfiltered.

SAUVIGNON BLANC *Faith Vineyard*

Dara Sauvignon Blanc is grown at Faith Vineyard in the Los Olivos area of the Santa Ynez Valley. The Burks' goal is to make a Sauvignon Blanc with true varietal character, a wine that showcases fruit and vibrancy. Harvested early at 22°–23° Brix to capture aromatic freshness and retain acidity, the grapes are pressed and this juice is fermented in stainless steel to age on lees for 4 months (no malo). Early bottling protects vibrant aromas and flavors of grapefruit, kiwi, and green apple. Spicy, leesy characters add to the complexity and mouth-feel, and the wine finishes with racy acidity and notes of fresh citrus and melon.

"ODE" Red Wine

Gary is exploring exciting new blends grounded in Rhône varietals: "Ode" is a blend of Colson Canyon Vineyard Syrah (65%) and Cabernet Sauvignon (25%) and Petite Sirah from the Santa Barbara highlands.

SYRAH *Larner Vineyard*

GRATITUDE *Larner Vineyard*

"Gratitude" is a blend of Grenache (70%) and Syrah, both from Larner Vineyard in Santa Ynez.

What are the critics saying about Dara?

ROBERT M. PARKER, JR., *The Wine Advocate*: "Elegant, character-filled, French-styled..."

JAMES LAUBE, *Wine Spectator*: "A showcase for a medley of wild berry, bramble berry and huckleberry flavors. Dark and concentrated, the wine is ripe and structured."

DENNIS SCHAEFER, *Santa Barbara News Press*: "Great floral aromatics on the nose and pretty, precise fruit flavors on the palate."

LAURIE DANIELS, *San Jose Mercury News*: "Recommended. One of the Best Buys of the Santa Barbara County area."

Thank you for your time and for your interest in Connoisseur Wines.