

# TENSLEY WINES

In 1998, Joey Tensley launched Tensley Wines, a winery in Santa Barbara County, where the mountain range runs from east to west. Eager to let the vineyard speak for itself, Joey produces vineyard designated Syrah wines that from day one, have been well received on the market. For his first vintage, Joey produced 100 cases, while serving as the assistant winemaker at Beckmen Vineyards, where he was given space to launch his own label.



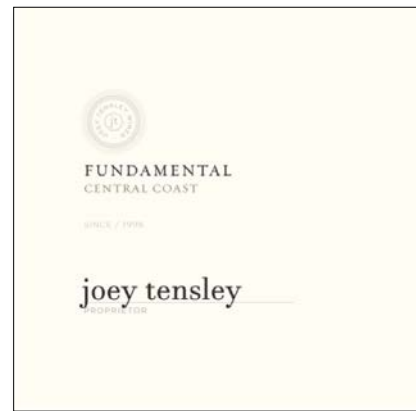
Three years later, in 2001, Joey relocated to Buellton, CA to open his own winery, producing 750 cases of wines that immediately appeared on some of the country's top wine lists. This same year, Matt Kramer added two of Tensley's 2001 Syrah wines to the Wine Spectator's Top Ten Wines in the World list. An auspicious beginning for a young vintner? Absolutely! But it was also an incredibly solid foundation that followed with framework in the form of 90-95 point scores from Robert Parker for Tensley's 2001-2004 vintages.

Thirteen years later, Tensley currently produces 3,300 cases a year. Taking advantage of the many micro-climates that the Santa Barbara mountain range provides, Joey cultivates his Chardonnay and Pinot Noir in areas that are close to the ocean, while growing his Rhone varieties—Syrah, Grenache, and Viognier—further inland.

Located high in the mountains, off of the Tepesquet Canyon, sits Tensley's prized, eight-acre Colson Canyon vineyard. "Colson Canyon was an easy choice to bottle alone," says Tensley, speaking of his single vineyard release. At "1,400 [feet] elevation high in the hills, east of Santa Maria, [the] soils are clay loam with a lot of iron and calcareous rocks." Here, the ground is steep. Sitting above the fog line, the vineyard escapes the morning sun while it bakes in the afternoons. Syrah "does well [here]," he adds. "It adapts well to different soils and weather. It seems to really like the cool ocean influence, but has enough heat to get ripe."

## FUNDAMENTAL RED

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**Varietal/Blend:** equal parts Syrah and Petite Sirah with small portions of Mourvèdre, Grenache, and Viognier

**Farming Practices:** conventional

**Soil:** sandy loam

**Vine Training:** Guyot

**Yeast:** selected

**Fermentation:** fermented in open top fermenters / temperature-controlled fermentation in stainless steel and finished in French oak

**Malolactic:** yes

**Maturation:** 8 months in 100% French oak barrels (maximum of 15% new oak)

**Sulfur:** yes

**Alcohol:** 15.0%

**Fined:** no

**Filtered:** yes

**Country:** United States

**Region:** California

**Sub Region:** Central Coast

**Vineyard:** select vineyards mostly in Happy Canyon

The "Fundamental" red is a nuanced and complex blend of Syrah, Petite Sirah, Mourvedre, Grenache and Viognier. A full-bodied wine that will easily compete with any wine to be found at this price point, this blend is loaded with character and offers rich notes of blackberries, smoked meats, and espresso. Drink the approachable wine now or age it over the next five years.

- Winemaker's notes

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