

MATHIS

I GROW IT. I MAKE IT.

ABOUT MATHIS WINE

VINEYARD The Mathis Vineyard is 7.5 acres of glorious south facing slopes with low vigor volcanic soils – it's heaven for red wine grapes. My neighbors fell to their knees in laughter when I planted it to my beloved Grenache – ha! --everyone thought I would plant Cabernet.

But I was following the dream (cue theme from Sound of Music) that had been in my head since 1988. In what proved to be an exceptionally brutal winter, I cleared the land myself in '97/'98 and got to planting Grenache, a little Petite Sirah, Carignane and Alicante Bouschet in '99 and 2000.



WINES The Grenache wines from the wee Mathis Vineyard vary a bit from year to year, but in a predictably narrow range. The hallmark fruit characters are dried black cherry, framboise, wild plum, cranberry, a kiss of currant and strawberry jam, then tie it up with a some piney juniper spice and a quick grind of black pepper; a little garrigue if you will. All framed in suitable tannic structure, enough to make it pair with foods but never as high as to jamb an elbow in your ribs. This is known as B-A-L-A-N-C-E, something not often seen in California, haha! Take note.

ABOUT I was happily making furniture in Western Massachusetts 25 years ago when I went off the deep end for wine, my creative juices overflowing to the point where I knew a career change was inevitable. By '90 I had an old school bus packed up and headed west, landing at Ravenswood Winery, where I've worked ever since, first in Winemaking and more recently as GM.

The wines of the south of France were my true love when I first got interested in the red stuff, and it ultimately became my life's mission to capture the laughably delicious aspect of these Grenache based wines here in California.

I finally scraped enough money together by '97 to buy a beautiful hillside vineyard parcel above the town of Sonoma, which I promptly cultivated and planted. ~ *Peter Mathis*