



2022 K VINTNERS EL JEFE TEMPRANILLO

TASTING NOTES BY WINEMAKER CHARLES SMITH

Porch sitting... warm evening... spirited talk... meat grilling... wine flowing... black fruit compote, dried fig, tobacco leaf, and granite dust. Stoneridge vineyards runs in the veins... forward and delightful: fresh flower, garden bouquet, in the breeze, dried cherries, fresh dill, and tilled earth complete and intertwined to harmony.

VINTAGE NOTES

2022 was a unique year for wine grapes in Washington State. A slow start due to a late spring eventually balanced out into an even and warm summer, ultimately leading to one of the longest falls we have ever experienced. Our vineyards, which produce great grapes year in and year out, harvested fruit that lent itself to extremely special wines this year. Wines that are firm, bright, and beautiful, with lovely aromas. We're excited to watch them continue to develop and provide enjoyment for years to come!

CURRENT SCORES

94 Points, Jeb Dunnuck (v2021)

"The 2022 Tempranillo El Jefe is a full-bodied wine chewy in tannin that nonetheless shows a deft Old World balance between bright acidity and ripe fruit. Layers of dark berry and meaty game are accented in pretty infusions of lavender, the tannins velvety smooth and elongated. Enjoy over the next 8-10 years."

93 Points, James Suckling (v2021)

"This juicy, fruity, sleek wine has so much fresh berry and cherry fruit that they counter-balance the grape variety's famous tannins. Blackberries, black cherries, sour cherries and espresso fill the palate, backed by good acidity and fine-grained tannins."

92 Points, Eric Guido-Vinous (v2021)

"... Opens with mentholated freshness, giving way to crushed raspberry and peppery herb tones. It blends sour orange with ripe red druit and savory spice, all guided by juicy acidity. The 2021 tapers off spicy and long - gently tannic, and tinged with minerality as rosy inner florals fade."

VINEYARD

Stoneridge Vineyard (100%)

The vineyard has an alluvial fan gravel bed and rests above the flood plain of the Columbia River. Under the topsoil is a layer of caliche and basalt 6-12" deep, creating a calcium and iron rich media that forces roots to struggle. The fruit grown is thick skinned and produces nearly black juice and robust yet supple tannins, adding to the aging potential of the wines.

WINEMAKING

Varietal Breakdown: 100% Tempranillo

Appellation: Royal Slope

Production: 2.7 tons per acre, native yeast, 100% whole berry fermentation in French oak tank, 49 days on skins | 22 months barrel-aged on lees in 50% new French oak barriques | 439 cases

Wine Analysis: 5.3 g/L titratable acidity, 3.9 pH, 14% alcohol, no residual sugar **UPC:** 184745300059

