

SAXUM CAYUCOS RIDGE VINEYARD

2021 CAYUCOS RIDGE VINEYARD

100% Syrah
ALC: 15.1%
Cases 750 ml: 400
Cases 1.5 L: 30
AVA: Paso Robles
Release: January 2025
Release Price: \$138
Drink: 2026 - 2040

NOTES FROM JUSTIN:

The 2021 Cayucos Ridge Vineyard Syrah. It's unlike anything we've ever done, but also fits nicely into the Saxum family. It's black and brooding, tightly wound and in need of a few years cellar time. If you get antsy and pop a cork you'll be rewarded with an intense but beautiful core of black pepper and bay laurel. Imagine visiting Montana de Oro in the winter, searching for the monarch butterflies, walking through the damp eucalyptus groves. The scent of the sea wafting through the trees and the damp forest floor is a little extra because it just rained. Well that is what this wine is. To a T. Sorry I'm gushing here.

REVIEWS:

Jeb Dunnuck, jebdunnuck.com, August 2024

Rating: (94-96)

Drink: n/a

Not yet bottled and coming from Smith's new Cayucos Ridge Vineyard located west of Paso Robles, within sight of the Pacific Ocean and at 1650 feet in elevation, the 2021 Cayucos Ridge is all Syrah from vines planted in 2018, aged mostly (all?) in barrel. This deep purple-hued beauty has a Cornas-like vibe in its peppery red and black fruits, game, wild herbs, and iron-like nuances. Medium to full-bodied on the palate, it's structured, has lots of tannins, terrific balance, and a great finish. It's another singular wine in the lineup with tons of character.

Eric Guido, Vinous, July 2024

Rating: (94-96)

Drink: 2028-2036

A preview of Saxum's newest plantings in a cooler location closer to the coast, the 2021 Cayucos Ridge is wickedly fresh, with white pepper, dried roses, split pine and mentholated currants forming its bouquet. This is cool-toned and racy in feel, with ripe red and black fruits accelerated by zesty acidity as hits of lavender pastille amass toward the close. The 2021 leaves a spice-drop resonance and edgy tannins, yet it maintains fantastic balance. This is a beautiful combination of New-World fruit and Old-World tension.

Matthew Luczy, Wine Advocate, June 2024

Rating: (93-95)

Drink: 2026-2036

From a San Luis Obispo Coast site planted to own-rooted Syrah in 2017 just 4.5 miles from the Pacific, the 2021 Cayucos Ridge Vineyard is a trio of firsts: Saxum's first foray outside Paso Robles, the inaugural release from this vineyard and their first single-variety wine. Tasted as a finished blend just before bottling, the nose is exquisite, perfumed and alluring, with a level of poise and elegance altogether different from the rest of

the Saxum roster. The texture is fresh and ethereal, with a wonderfully spry, lifted energy that carries through to the finish. The site's youth makes this stellar showing even more promising and offers a fascinating first look into a storied producer breaking ground in a region that is quickly gaining momentum.

While there is no shortage of Paso Robles producers who hang their hats on going for the biggest and boldest wines in the area, Saxum's ability to craft powerful wines that deliver opulence and complexity while remaining balanced and authentic is second to none. Proprietor and winemaker Justin Smith's influence in the region is inescapable, as many other premier winemakers in the area either grew up with him, have hired him as a consultant, worked stints at Saxum, or any combination thereof. The wines are a true reflection of the region and, as such, are unapologetically bold and intense. However, they consistently offer nuance and elegance that are fleetingly rare in wines of their size and stature.
