



Blending The Elements

For centuries, the Chumash have maintained an elevated level of respect for the balance that exists between man and nature. While relishing all the beauty that Mother Nature provides, the Chumash are keenly aware that the natural elements — land, water, air and fire are vital to survival.

Tara Gomez, winemaker for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians' award-winning label Kitá Wines, chose to introduce three blends. She wanted to find a way to recognize these elements that are so important to both her tribe's culture and winemaking.

"When you think about the grape growing process, you need ample sunlight (fire) to grow the crop, and you need the soil (land) and (water) to nourish it," Gomez says. "Air is also crucial in providing better circulation for temperature and humidity management around the clusters. The elements are important for balance in everything we do." With careful crafting of the wines and thoughtful names, Gomez has produced three different blends, which boldly stand out on their own while proudly honoring Chumash culture.

T'AYA

T'aya, the Samala word for "abalone shell," is a tribute to water. Like the abalone shell, this white Rhone blend exhibits the minerality of the ocean while boasting a creamy, rich and vibrant texture from lees aging. The range of stone fruit and citrus flavors, mixed with the tangy minerality, highlight the beauty of how water is one of Mother Nature's most precious gifts to land. (56% Marsanne, 40% Roussanne, and 4% Grenache Blanc)

SPE'Y

Spe'y, which means "flower" in the Chumash native language of Samala, pays homage to the natural element of land. This red Rhone blend is dynamic and floral in essence, featuring aromas of rose petal, violet, raspberry, clove, and maraschino cherries. This complex, medium-bodied wine is perfectly balanced between its impressively lively acidity and elegant structure. The blueberries, Chinese five spices, mint, and sweet tobacco introduce you to a softer texture and rounded, dry tanins. It is perfectly balanced with supple beauty while still being robust and represents the balance of land and the splendor of Mother Nature. (70% Grenache, 24% Carignan, and 6% Syrah)

KALAŠ

Kalaš translates to "breathe" in Samala, and it recognizes the importance of balance as a part of our every day life. It's a balance of ourselves and our surroundings living in harmony — the ability to breathe in the natural air. This red Bordeaux blend is indeed in rarified air, displaying both power and grace. The dark fruit components blended with deep flavors of cedar, mulberry and black cherries balance out the crisp acidity and dynamic tannic finish. (48% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Franc, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 5% Petit Verdot)

By linking Kitá's new blends with components of the Chumash culture, winemaker Tara Gomez hopes to emphasize the importance of balance between man and Mother Nature, which has remained integral to the Chumash experience.