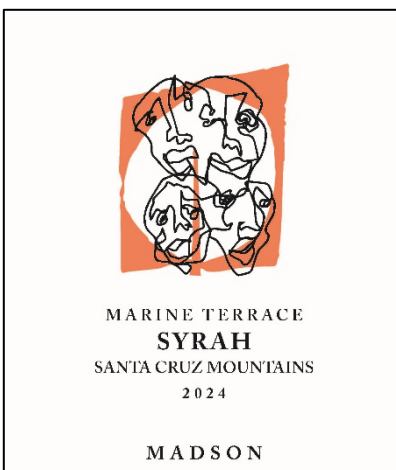


# Madson

## Santa Cruz Mountains

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### Syrah, Marine Terrace 2024

*Lean and herbaceous, this smells of violets and crushed berries. High-toned dark-plum fruit and floral character in equal measure. Its herbal notes carry over to the palate, where the texture is positively the definition of ‘crunchy’— present, forward and lithe. It is perhaps a touch backward but it is young also, and should mellow and lengthen with age. Drink 2026-2038.*

**17.5/20 pts**—Patrick Comiskey, [jancisrobinson.com](http://jancisrobinson.com), May 6, 2026

### Syrah, Ascona Vineyard 2023

*Sleek in silky tannins and tightly wound, the 2023 Syrah Ascona Vineyard reflects this cool, long hangtime vintage in its leathery texture, reductive nature, and bursting acidity. There are floral elements of violet that lure you into a light-bodied palate of tremendous refinement and blueberry garrigue, the oak and tannin quietly integrated into a cohesive whole. As with most of the producer’s wines, this is 100% whole-cluster and native-fermented, aged 19 months in larger neutral French barrels. Still developing, give it a few years more in bottle and enjoy best 2028-2033.*

**93 pts**—Virginie Boone, [jebdunnuck.com](http://jebdunnuck.com), March 2026

*The 2023 Syrah Ascona Vineyard presents a significant improvement over previous vintages, exuding a Cornas-like profile that beautifully complements the more Côte-Rôtie-esque Red Tail Syrah bottling. Fermented entirely with stems, it underwent an 18-month élevage in Stockinger barrels, of which three were produced. It leads with a deep, black-fruited, smoldering bouquet that rapidly gains lift and dimension, introducing an inky, compact and polished palate that allows some stem-derived grip to emerge. It concludes with a juicy yet taut core that slowly reveals a refined, spherical tannin structure. This is a beautiful expression of the Santa Cruz Mountains from a producer to watch.*

**94 pts**—Matthew Luczy, The Wine Advocate, August 2025

### **Syrah, Ascona Vineyard 2022**

*From a site at 2,500-foot elevation (tremendously cool for Syrah), the six rows of grapes for this designate are grown in shallow top soils. Showing all its cool-climate nuance, the 2022 Syrah Ascona Vineyard is light and creamy on the palate, lovely in violet, wild blueberry, cassis, and white pepper with feral garrigue and forest unimpeded by the subtle oak and integrated tannin. Medium-bodied, the energy of the wine is what truly stands out and makes it a classic worth your time.*

**98 pts**—Virginie Boone, jebdunnuck.com, April 2025