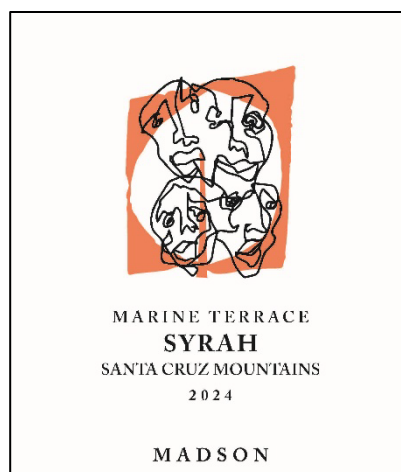


Madson

Santa Cruz Mountains



Syrah, Marine Terrace 2024

The 2024 Syrah Marine Terrace is the first edition of this wine for Madson. It's all Serine clone Syrah done with 100% whole clusters in one neutral puncheon. A big kick of reduction requires quite a bit of vigorous swirling or a splash decant to blow off. When it does, what remains is a rich core of blackberry, cured olive, eucalyptus and pomegranate. A sweet, creamy mid-palate lends intrigue, but the 2024 is a very taut wine that will certainly be better with a few years to integrate its wood. Even then, I would suggest giving this an abundance of air.

92+ pts—Billy Norris, Vinous Media, June 2026

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, May 6, 2026

Syrah, Ascona Vineyard 2024

Tasted from tank just prior to bottling, the 2024 Syrah Ascona is an exotic beauty in a polished, elegant package. The sweetness of the fruit is just so enticing. Chinese five spice, rose petal, ripe blueberry and white pepper saturate the palate, coming across as both velvety and vertical. Super-fine structure builds with air, leading to a long, texturally engaging finish. This is poised to be a very impressive wine.

94-96 pts—Billy Norris, Vinous Media, June 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, 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-feet 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