

## Alain Graillot Thalvin Syrocco Syrah Zenata Morocco 2021

Selected by: Master Sommelier Evan Goldstein, Master Sommelier Madeline Triffon, and Master Sommelier Tim Gaiser



### Final Deductions

**VINTAGE** 2021

**GRAPE** Syrah/Blend

**GEOGRAPHY** Not Europe

### Rationale

Cows in Berkeley (a long-loved slogan of Berkeley Farms Dairy in Northern California) is just slightly whackier than Syrah in Morocco! And while this predominantly Muslim country is not where you would think of wine country, it has a reasonably long history in large part due to its pre-Independent French occupation.

Despite the hardship of an alcohol industry existing in a relatively (99%) conservative Muslim country, the Moroccan wine industry is consistent and well-established. The long wine-producing history is experiencing a revival thanks to an influx of foreign investment in recent times. It took ten years of campaigning by the King, Hassan II, a graduate of the University of Bordeaux, to revive overseas interest in Morocco's vineyard potential. At the time of his death in July 1999, various large French wine companies were planting hectares of vineyards. The vast majority of the 50,000 123,552 acres of vineyard is planted to red grape varieties. Initial plantings in the late 1990s consisted primarily of Carignan, Alicante Bouschet, Cinsaut, and Grenache, along with local Indigenous varieties such as Abbou, Doukkali, and Maticha.

Syrah is a red wine grape grown in the Zenata region of Morocco, between Casablanca and Rabat, and is a key component of Syrah du Morocco, or Sirocco, a wine produced by the late Northern Rhone superstar Alain Graillot 's sons. Overseen by Stéphane Mariot, the vineyard work is meticulous, with goblet pruning, hand-weeding, and hand-plowing; no herbicide or fungicide treatments are used.

### Sight

**BRIGHTNESS** Day Bright

**CLARITY** Clear

**COLOR DEPTH** Medium

**COLOR** Ruby

**RIM VARIATION** Ruby  
*Stained Tears: Low*

### Structure

**RESIDUAL SUGAR** Dry

**ACID** Med+

**ALCOHOL** Medium

**TANNIN** Med+

**TEXTURE** Lean / Tart

**FINISH** Med+

**COMPLEXITY** High

### Aroma & Taste

**RED FRUIT** Red Currant • Cherry / Red Tomato • Red Plum • Pomegranate *Condition: Fresh, Ripe*

**BLACK FRUIT** Black Raspberry • Blackberry • Black Plum *Condition: Ripe*

**CITRUS FRUIT** Orange *Condition: Raisinated / Dried Part: Peel / Zest*

**FLORAL** Lavender *Condition: Fresh, Dried*

**GREEN VEGETABLE** Arugula • Dark Leafy Greens

**OTHER VEGETABLE** Fennel / Anise • Olive (Black) • Mushrooms (Brown)

**HERBAL** Laurel / Bay Leaf • Tea Leaf / Bergamot • Thyme • Garrique / Provence

**OTHER SPICES** Black Pepper • Green Peppercorn • Chinese Five Spice • Paprika / Pimenton

**ORGANIC EARTH** Turned Dirt / Potting Soil

**INORGANIC EARTH** Mineral / Rock

**ANIMAL** Leather • Meat

**OAK AGING** Yes *Oak Intensity: Medium*

**OAK INFLUENCE** Cedar / Cigar Box • Sandalwood • Cacao / Chocolate • Smoke

**OXIDATION/NUTTINESS** Walnut • Pistachio