

# L.A. Lepiane

## California



### The Wines

- *Black Oak Vineyard*: Black Oak is a ten-acre hillside vineyard in Santa Barbara County. This Grenache wine is made with 50% whole cluster, aged 22 months in neutral barrels, and is terrifically nuanced. Often Grenache can be cloyingly sweet and very ripe (and hot)--Lepiane's is a far cry from that model of extraction. Alison made a mere 63 cases of a wine that is rich in pit fruit and tea essences, all delivered with a compellingly elegant touch. Want an excellent example of the new California? Try Alison's wine.
- *Alisos Vineyard*: Alisos Vineyard dates from the 1990s and is in the hills above Los Alamos, a very cool site. Amid all the other varieties, there's one little acre of Nebbiolo. Alison raises this in a 600-liter barrel and gives it only one racking and very minimal additions of SO<sub>2</sub>. The aromatics are pure Nebbiolo: intensely floral, dark fruit notes, earth and tar. It doesn't have the massive tannins of many a Piemontese rendition--it's closest to what's made up in the Alto Piemonte's Lessona appellation--but it's got everything else. 65 cases.