

EL IXSIR

RED, 2011



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DRINK DATE

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“The 2011 EL is a blend of 55% Syrah, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot, aged for 24 months in French oak (half new). It comes in at 14% alcohol. This is a new look at this older wine, the first I saw in the EL brand. It has improved. Arguably my favorite of the trio presented this issue, this is far more vibrant than the 2009 and far more developed than the 2015. It handles the wood far better than the 2009 as well. It is the most complex of the three, with the Syrah component turning a touch gamey and throwing off lots of seared beef. The long and still-gripping finish is impressive. Concentrated, balanced, long on the finish and age-worthy, this is a winner across the board. The only remaining question is how long it ages—I’d say it easily looks like a 20-year wine, maybe more. Admittedly, there is not much track record, so let’s take that in stages.”

