



2017 SYRAH HYDE VINEYARD - CARNEROS NAPA VALLEY

Vintage

The 2017 vintage was a one for the record books. It will always be known for the intense fires in Sonoma and Napa counties that burned thousands of acres in October. Luckily, many of the grapes from the vintage were already harvested. The power outages, and mandatory evacuations created issues for access to wineries. The growing season before the fires was fantastic after the deluge of rain in the winter that charged the soils, filled the reservoirs, and brought most of California out of a decade of drought. The season was progressing slowly, and evenly when in August, we had an intense heat wave lasting multiple days that arrested the ripening. There is quite a difference between the wines harvested before and after the heat wave, the wines harvested after the heat wave and before the fires, and the wines harvested after the fires and before the rain in late October. Needless to say, having multiple pieces to blend with is key to producing well-balanced wines in 2017.

Vineyard

Planted in 1979 by Larry Hyde, Hyde Vineyard is one of the gems of Napa Carneros. Forty-four distinct blocks are planted to primarily Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, with only a few coveted blocks planted to other varietals. The Syrah Noir Clone from Block 5 at the home ranch is planted North-South on 3309 Rootstock. Ancient sedimentary shallow loamy soils drain well and allow the plants to dig deep roots, naturally balancing the vines with low yields and concentrated fruit. The Hyde Family is dedicated to growing the finest quality grapes and understands the connection between the site and those who work it.

Winemaking

This cool site allows for ripe flavors with a backbone of natural acidity and low alcohol. A Côte-Rôtie style blend distinct from our other offerings. The wine is fermented in 500L puncheons, which allows for extended maceration and softening of the tannins. Whole Berry Syrah (66%), Whole Berry Grenache (3%), Whole Berry Viognier (1%), and Whole Syrah Clusters (30%) add a layer of complexity to the nose and mouthfeel. Aged in puncheons to preserve the freshness, the wine was bottled without fining and gently filtered.

Tasting Notes

Savory dark cherry and white pepper notes in the nose. Rich and full body is braced by a graphite and gravelly acidity – due to the older vines. This wine has the lowest alcohol and most natural acidity of all our wines. I anticipate the wine aging gracefully till 2035 minimum.

Analysis

Harvested:	September 21, 2017
Composition:	96% Syrah Noir, 3% Grenache, 1% Viognier
Alcohol:	13.9%
Bottling Date:	December 2019
Release Date:	April 2020
Production:	165 cases