

WINE IS A JOURNEY NOT A DESTINATION

Donelan

DONELAN FAMILY WINES

## 2017 Sonoma County Syrah Grande

The Syrah Grande is a wine that allows us to dig down to the micro-level of terroir. The overall goal of this new wine is to encapsulate the vintage and to find unique blocks or pockets within vineyards that we currently work with. The small lot ferments that we work with for this wine push the boundaries, stylistically speaking, on what a Donelan Syrah looks like. We treat these lots like an internal R&D department at the winery, always experimenting to make better and better wines. After years of observation, we isolated the afternoon sun-side of vine rows in the upper blocks of Kobler Family Vineyard. The ripening curve for this section is a little ahead of the rest of the vineyard, think of it as a banana belt within the confines of a small 4.5 acre vineyard. We chose this particular micro-cru for the intense dark fruit profile, savory aromatics, and fine-grained tannin structure. Rounding out the vineyard selection for this wine are two of our favorite Bennett Valley vineyards, Cardiac Hill and Judge. After working with these properties for some time, we outlined small sections in the vineyard that had very poor soils, leading to lower yields and two clusters with the most concentrated fruit on the ranches.

The 2017 Syrah Grande gives aromas reminiscent of sweet wood smoke, plum preserves, fresh forest floor, and blackberry cobbler. This wine would pair well with hearty vegetables such as grilled brussel sprouts with panchetta and balsamic glaze or coffee encrusted filet mignon. Although Syrah Grande is a wine that blurs convention by putting together multiple disparate sites, it embodies the synergy we've found between these lots.

### Cellar Notes:

**Percentage New Oak**

50%

**Barrel Aging**

22 months

**Bottling Date**

Summer 2019

**Composition**

100% Syrah

**Alcohol**

14.9%

**Production**

72 cases

*~47% Whole Cluster · Native Ferment/Native ML*

