

WINE IS A JOURNEY NOT A DESTINATION

Donelan

DONELAN FAMILY WINES

2018 Bennett Valley Judge Vineyard Syrah

Located in Bennett Valley, the Judge Vineyard is meticulously cared for, with its owner/farmers Joe and Gail Judge living on the property. As one of our coolest Syrah sites, Judge Vineyard allows for ample hang time increasing fruit concentration and providing the tannin that give the Syrah its signature velvety mouthfeel. Hang time was especially long in 2018, as it was a very mild and calm growing season that didn't push us to pick in a hurry. The fruit set was incredibly healthy and high and rain was plentiful, so canopy management and dropping fruit were crucial in our Bennett Valley vineyards.

The Judge Vineyard lies in the most northwestern portion of Bennett Valley. The surrounding area comprised of gravelly loam and larger rocks undulates across the land in swales and berms. Due to the cooler temperature, it is not uncommon for the nighttime fog to not recede to the coast until late morning. We pull fruit from three distinct blocks, each planted to a unique clone of Syrah. This melange of Clone 877, Clone 174, and Estrella River Selection allows for vineyard built-in complexity. Each clone is fermented and aged separately with a percentage of whole cluster and cooperage matched specifically to optimize balance of flavor.

On the palate, it's a flavorful surprise as the acidity rounds out the bold, spicy flavors. The finish is long, dense, and just as flavorful as the first sip. Like an iron fist in a velvet glove, this vintage of Judge Vineyard Syrah offers the perfect blend of fruit concentration and tannin structure.

Cellar Notes:

Percentage New Oak

37%

Barrel Aging

22 months

Bottling Date

July 2020

~50% Whole Cluster · Native Ferment/Native ML

Composition

100% Syrah

Alcohol

14.7%

Production

219 cases

