

## 2018 Sonoma County *Cuvée Christine Syrah*

From a winemaker's perspective, the 2018 vintage was wonderful. Mother Nature did not rush us. Instead, she gave us ample rain, no major heat spikes, and an unrushed harvest. 2018 was one of the longest harvests on record for Donelan Wines. Fruit set was incredibly healthy and rain was plentiful. The science of a systematic approach to canopy management and balanced crop load were crucial. Hedging, tipping, and suckering all had to be perfectly timed, as to find balance in the vine. Our attention to detail is evident in the wine.

Our sourcing for this wine is diverse, ranging from Knights Valley to as far West as Green Valley of Russian River Valley, and the usual suspect vineyards are present in this blend; Kobler, Lawer, Steiner, Cardiac Hill and Judge. We refer to the Cuvée Christine as our Sonoma postcard to Syrah. It runs the full gamut of flavor and personality with fruit, spice, and savory. There's something in this wine for everyone and every meal, and the quality to price ratio is unmatched.

On the nose of the 2018 Christine, you'll get mulberries, blood orange, white flower, coffee grinds. It possesses not only great length but also great breadth on the palate. Round, supple tannins leave you with a long 45+ second finish. The whole cluster fermentation gives this wine backbone without being too firm.

### *Cellar Notes:*

**Percentage New Oak**

32%

**Whole Cluster**

47%

**Barrel Aging**

22 months

**Alcohol**

14.4%

**Bottling Date**

July 2020

**Production**

487 cases

