

WINE IS A JOURNEY NOT A DESTINATION

Donelan

DONELAN FAMILY WINES

2017 Bennett Valley Cardiac Hill Syrah

The 2017 vintage marks the inaugural release of Cardiac Hill Syrah from the Jemrose Vineyard. Although we have worked with this vineyard for a couple of seasons, it was not until 2017 that we were familiar enough with the vineyard for it to warrant its own bottling. This small vineyard block earned its name because of the steep rock, north-facing slope it is planted to. The Estrella River selection of Syrah and the limited rocky soils yields some of the smallest and most flavorful Syrah fruit around.

We like to think of the 2017 as the first vintage in five that was not a drought year. The winter season brought a bevy of much needed precipitation and pushed budbreak, flowering, and veraison a week or so later than the previous few years. Temperatures stayed moderate until record breaking heat struck Sonoma over Labor Day weekend. Vigilant growers and winemakers were prepared for the unprecedented temperatures and picked early in the vineyards that were ready. Vintages like 2017 demonstrate why it's important that winemaking strategy start in the vineyard.

The 2017 Cardiac Hill Syrah is not for the faint of heart. It's heady, brooding, and beautifully balanced. Blue fruit, cedar, white pepper, iron filings, and lardon are aromas and flavors I associate with this wine. Due to the hillside nature of the vineyard, this Syrah has a bit of structure. If drinking in its youth, I recommend giving it a few hours to decant.

Cellar Notes:

Percentage New Oak

42%

Barrel Aging

22 months

Bottling Date

July 2019

Composition

100% Syrah

Alcohol

14.7%

Production

229 cases

~72% Whole Cluster · Native Ferment/Native ML

