

WINE IS A JOURNEY NOT A DESTINATION

Donelan

DONELAN FAMILY WINES

2019 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. 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's common 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.

2019 was a great vintage. It was cool with plenty of winter and spring rain and no intense heat waves. It was a calm growing season that every winemaker hopes for. Our 2019 Judge Syrah is super savory and expressive. Polished leather, toasted mocha, cardamom, and cherry pop on the nose. The palate is full of lavender, molasses, and ripe dark berries with great depth and texture.

Cellar Notes:

Percentage New Oak

35%

Barrel Aging

17 months

Bottling Date

July 2021

~43% Whole Cluster · Native Ferment/Native ML

Composition

100% Syrah

Alcohol

14.7%

Production

190 cases

