

WINE IS A JOURNEY NOT A DESTINATION

Donelan

DONELAN FAMILY WINES

2021 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.

2021 was a warm but moderate growing season. Because of the heat, we measured super low cluster rates during early crop estimations. This told us to expect a very flavorful vintage. Our 2021 Judge Syrah is superb and jam packed with intense flavor. A bouquet of gravel, toffee, and licorice lead you to notes of ripe huckleberry, dark chocolate, smoked meat, and pepper expanding on the palate. It's full-bodied, velvety, and fresh with a huge finish.

Cellar Notes:

Percentage New Oak

40%

Barrel Aging

17 months

Bottling Date

April 2023

Composition

100% Syrah

Alcohol

14.7%

Production

146 cases

~48% Whole Cluster · Native Ferment/Native ML

