



SYRAH
HOP BARN HILL VINEYARD • RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
2019



2018 Vintage

94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous
97+ points – Erin Brooks, Wine Advocate

2017 Vintage

94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous
94 points - Erin Brooks, Wine Advocate

WINEMAKING DETAILS

Fermentation: 100% neutral French Oak; 100% Malolactic; on the lees with daily battonage

Oak: 50% new French Oak,
50% neutral French Oak, 15 months total

Case Production: 85

VINEYARD DETAILS

Soil Type:
Huichicha

Rootstock:
420

GROWING YEAR

The 2019 season was overall very cool with record rainfall for Sonoma County in February. The vines however were not affected by this because they were still dormant at the time. Similar to the 2018 season, spring and summer were moderate in temperature and ripening developed gradually and under minimal stress. This year was in fact so similar to 2018 that we began harvest the same day, on September 10th. Unfortunately, another wildfire hit the region at the end of October, but luckily none of our vineyards were affected. The winery and many employees were evacuated, but we were able to keep an eye on the new vintage with a skeleton crew. The quality was not impacted, and we are very excited at the concentration of flavors in this vintage.

VINEYARD CHARACTER

The Hop Barn Hill Syrah Vineyard was planted in 1996 on a clay loam slope near the old hop barn neighboring our winemaking area and tasting room. These heavy clay soils are perfect to reduce the vigor common to Syrah vines, forcing the plants to focus their efforts into the fruit versus their canopy or root systems. The grapevines are planted in four separate blocks; one meter by two meters apart, on less than an acre of land which yields no more than 3 barrels each vintage.

TASTING NOTES

Dark in color with fresh aromas of black plum, sandalwood, fresh cracked pepper. The mouth coating palate is juicy with black cherry, coffee bean and blackberry flavors. Berry liqueur rounds out the lengthy finish.