



THE HESS COLLECTION
SMALL BLOCK SERIES
ZINFANDEL
2017



VARIETAL: 92% Zinfandel, 6% Petite Sirah, 2% Charbono
APPELLATION: Rockpile, Sonoma County
HARVEST DATES: September 23 - October 4, 2017
ALCOHOL: 14.9%
pH: 3.43
TA: 0.67 gms/100mL
AGING: 15 months in French Oak Barrels

399 Cases Produced

HESS SMALL BLOCK SERIES ZINFANDEL

Small Block wines allow the Hess Family to honor the winemaker's art, exploring vineyards, varietals and artisan techniques. This vibrant Zinfandel hails from the iconic Rockpile appellation. Located just 16 miles from the Pacific Ocean in the northwest corner of Sonoma County, the region is prized by those who love Zinfandel. Sweeping sun exposures, mountainous terroir and shallow, rocky soils stress the vines producing low yields with grapes of exceptional quality.

2017 VINTAGE

Vintage 2017 began with restorative rains that replenished soils, helped support vine growth and fortified our Rockpile vineyards through the Spring. The late-August heat wave that continued into Labor Day made us extra vigilant in managing fruit ripeness, especially with the Rockpile appellation being situated above the fog line and already receiving consistent sun exposure. However once cooler weather arrived in mid-September, the sugars and acids in our grapes were able to mature at a gradual pace. While October was marked by wildfires in the North Coast, our Zinfandel grapes were already picked and unaffected in Sonoma County. Despite it being a tumultuous year, overall, we saw an abundant harvest that gave our winemakers quality fruit and the opportunity to develop wines with depth and character.

WINEMAKER NOTES

"High above Lake Sonoma, the Rockpile vineyards range in elevation from 800 to 2,000 ft. The rocky, hillside conditions of the region, combined with the consistent sunshine that results from being above the fog line produces small yields and grapes with concentrated flavors. On the nose, the wine presents a beautiful bouquet of cassis, boysenberry and black cherry, which transitions seamlessly into the full bodied and elegant wine. In the glass, it possesses distinct varietal character, driven by juicy black currant and tight tannins supported by a perfectly balanced acidity and delicious notes of toasty oak throughout."

—Randle Johnson, Winemaker

FOOD PAIRING

An elegant but bold pairing with an array of dishes, standing well alongside hearty dishes such as Osso Bucco, roasted venison, filling cassoulets and richly sauced pastas.

- Chad Hendrickson, Executive Chef

LAND TRUST OF NAPA COUNTY

The Hess Collection is proud to support the Land Trust of Napa County, a community-based nonprofit dedicated to preserving the character of Napa by permanently protecting land.



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