

STOLPMAN

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SYRAH 2017 *Originals*

TECH

VINEYARD COMPONENTS

block 1+2 Originals Syrah. 1992/1993 plantings respectively, Durrell Strain

VARIETAL BLEND

100% Syrah

VINIFICATION

70% whole cluster, natively fermented in unsealed concrete

FINAL ANALYSIS

alcohol: 14.1%

VATTING/FERMENTATION

pumped over daily with only 3 total punch downs. Only free run juice used in final cuvee, no press wine

COOPERAGES & ELEVAGE

22 months in large once-used 500L oak puncheons

RELEASE DATE

October 2020

HARVEST DATE

September 24-25, 2017

TOTAL PRODUCTION

490 cases

BACKGROUND

The Originals Syrah vines are not only our “Original” planting, but they are the oldest vines in Ballard Canyon AVA. The wine made from these vines in the mid 1990's generated the Syrah-planting fervor which eventually led to the publication of Ballard Canyon AVA. Because we withhold irrigation for months on end during our arid growing season, these vines have rooted deeply into our limestone in search of moisture. They yield small crops of tiny, concentrated grapes.

VINTAGE

The strong deep-rooted Originals vines seemed to brush off the two short heat spikes of September of 2017. We waited a week after the second heat wave before harvesting at ideal ripeness.

AT THE WINERY

In 2017 we noticed especially dynamic flavors up on the ridgelines within the Originals block and we directed La Cuadrilla to harvest those sections separately from the hillsides below. These barrels turned out to be magic, in particular, the blocks planted to the Durrell strain. We also decided to age these ridgeline lots in newer barrels that had only housed Roussanne for one previous vintage. The subtle “once-used” oak bonds happily with the red fruit profile of the 2017 Originals.

SENSORY

Normally brawny and robust, the Originals is typically the most serious, savory Syrah of our line-up – meant to drink at least 5 years after vintage. 2017 takes a turn towards the prettier side of Syrah that can be enjoyed upon release. Red perfume triumphs within a few minutes of pouring into the glass. The first swirl remains impressive with a black abyss ringed with a touch of sweet oak and ripe blackberry. On the palate the mouthfeel is creamy, oozy rich. Then the arc to perfumed red fruit begins and finishes with a balanced pop of peppermint. Like past vintages, the wine is still massive, but the beast has been luxuriated.