

2016
GRENACHE BLANC
Heart Hill Vineyard, Paso Robles
100% Grenache Blanc



VINEYARD

The grapes for this wine were grown at Heart Hill Vineyard in the Willow Creek District of Paso Robles and is named for the naturally occurring grove of oak trees in the shape of heart facing 46 West. The vineyard is composed almost entirely of south-facing, hillside plantings on steep rocky slopes of primarily siliceous shale. The growing season is long due to the ocean breezes that whip through the Templeton Gap in the Santa Lucia Mountain Range to the west and offer a consistent afternoon cooling effect. Our block of Grenache Blanc sits at the lowest elevation point in the vineyard, immediately to your right as you turn into our gate. Cool weather sinks, and this block can easily be damaged by frost in cooler vintages. However 2016 was warm and even, leading to an exceptional expression of the grape. Walking through the vineyards leading up to Harvest we could tell from tasting the fruit itself that it would eventually make a fantastic Reserve wine!

WINEMAKING

This Reserve wine was a barrel-select wine separated from the rest of our Grenache Blanc by our Winemaking team. Two large format, 500L puncheon barrels in particular stood out: a new French Oak Barrel and a neutral barrel (no oak impact). The final blend impressed our winemaking team because of its non-fruit driven aromatics and a steely, mineral driven palate. This is definitely not your Mother in Law's Pinot Grigio! Gorgeous golden with just a hint of tannin (Grenache Blanc grapes are known for having just a touch of grittiness in the skins) we expect this wine to continue to develop beautifully over the next 3-5 years.

WINEMAKER	Patrick Muran
CLONES	Field Select
ROOTSTOCK	101-14
VINEYARD	Heart Hill Vineyard
AVERAGE BRIX	26.4
pH/TA	3.3/5.6 g/L
ALCOHOL	14.5%
AVERAGE YIELD	2.4 tons/acre
BARREL AGING	10 months