

2016  
**RESERVE  
MALBEC**

Heart Hill Vineyard, Paso Robles

84% Malbec • 14% Cabernet Sauvignon • 2% Merlot



#### VINEYARD

We farm just four acres of Malbec grapes at Heart Hill Vineyard. The south-facing slopes and well-drained soil coupled with the cooling afternoon breezes in this block of Heart Hill Vineyard allow the fruit to mature slowly and beautifully, amplifying the dark fruit flavors while preserving the acidity necessary for a well-balanced wine. This single block of Malbec is located on the hillsides adjacent to the Heart and consistently produces exceptional fruit.

#### WINEMAKING

The sheer color and saturation of this wine always amazes our Winemaking team, and the 2016 vintage was no exception. It is inky and dark from the beginning which is why it makes such a great blending component of Fog Catcher. To take full advantage of what the vineyard gave us, initial fermentation was done at slightly higher temperatures and aggressive maceration was used to extract full color and flavor components. The expansive nature of this wine allows us to age it in 54% new French oak barrels for 23 months, resulting in a balanced and filled-out wine as far as richness, weight and color.

WINEMAKER	Patrick Muran
CLONES	595, 15, 2
BLOCKS	H4, A1, A9, A10
VINEYARD	Heart Hill Vineyard
AVERAGE BRIX	26.5°
pH/TA	3.6/6.1 g/L
ALCOHOL	14.9%
AVERAGE YIELD	3.8 tons/acre
BARREL AGING	23 months
COOPERAGE	54% new French Oak
CASES PRODUCED	193