

2016
**SILHOUETTE DU
COEUR**

Heart Hill Vineyard, Paso Robles

49% Marsanne · 31% Roussanne · 20% Grenache Blanc



VINEYARD

100% of the grapes for this wine were grown at Heart Hill Vineyard, which is named for the naturally occurring grove of oak trees in the shape of a heart facing 46 West. The vineyard is composed almost entirely of hillside plantings on steep rocky slopes of primarily siliceous shale. The 2015 vintage kept our vineyard manager on his toes throughout the growing season with cool and windy spring that resulted in lower yields for most of our varietals. The base of our Silhouette du Coeur is always built starting with the best white Rhone from the year (it changes frequently) which in 2015 was Grenache Blanc.

WINEMAKING

From French, the name translates to “Silhouette of the Heart,” respecting the fact that the three varietals in this blend grow on different edges of the vineyard. Each varietal was fermented separately, then blended together to create this wine. The Grenache Blanc was fermented in neutral oak barrels while the Roussane & Marsanne were co-fermented in large puncheons (600L barrels) and had a lengthy primary fermentation. This time allowed for characteristics you traditionally find in older white Rhone wines (honey flavors & a warmer color) to come forward in what is actually a young wine. The resulting balance from the racy Grenache Blanc makes this one of our favorite “SDCs” yet.

WINEMAKER	Patrick Muran
CLONES	Field Select, 468, 574
VINEYARD	Heart Hill Vineyard
AVERAGE BRIX	24.8
pH/TA	3.4/5.3 g/L
ALCOHOL	14.1%
AVERAGE YIELD	4.2 tons/acre
BARREL AGING	17 months
COOPERAGE	18% New French Oak