

# NINER

WINE ESTATES

## 2017 CABERNET FRANC

*Estate Grown*

WINEMAKER  
Patrick Muran

CLONES  
327, 169

HARVEST DATES  
September 26th - October 4th

AVERAGE YIELDS  
2.4 TPA

AVERAGE BRIX  
25.6°

PH / TA  
3.5/6.4 g/L

ALCOHOL  
13.8%

VINEYARD BLEND  
96%, Heart Hill Vineyard,  
4% Bootjack Ranch

VARIETAL BLEND  
82% Cabernet Franc  
18% Cabernet Sauvignon

COOPERAGE  
45% New French Oak Barrels

BARREL AGING  
22 months

CASES PRODUCED  
406

AGING RECOMMENDATION  
Peak Maturity - Drink Now  
Fall 2020



### SITE

Named for the naturally occurring grove of oak trees in the shape of heart facing 46 West, Heart Hill Vineyard is located at the gateway to Paso Robles west-side wine country. The vineyard is composed almost entirely of south-facing, hillside plantings on steep rocky slopes of primarily siliceous shale. The grapes produce rich, powerful, and well-structured wines.

### IN THE VINEYARD

We farm a single block of Cabernet Franc at Heart Hill Vineyard and the intense late season weather in 2017 led to diminished yields in the block. However, the grapes that we did harvest had more rich and well developed phenolics and flavors than past vintages.

### IN THE WINERY

Cabernet Franc has long, persistent tannins and our goal in the winery is to develop complimentary flavors. In 2017, the late season heat created plush fruit tones that were a perfect accent. With 22 months of barrel aging in nearly half new French Oak Barrels, the wine softened and integrated. With açai, potpurri and brown sugar notes it's a delight to drink young and will benefit from 2-3 years of additional cellaring.