

# NINER

WINE ESTATES

2020

## CABERNET FRANC

Heart Hill Vineyard & Bootjack Ranch, Paso Robles

### WINEMAKER

Patrick Muran

### CLONE

327, 13, 11

### ROOTSTOCK

101-14

### HARVEST DATES

September 18th - September 28th

### AVERAGE BRIX

24.4°

### AVERAGE YIELD

2.1 Tons/Acre

### pH / TA

3.8/5.5 g/L

### ALCOHOL

13.9%

### VINEYARD

76% Bootjack Ranch  
24% Heart Hill Vineyard

### BLEND

96% Cabernet Franc,  
4% Cabernet Sauvignon

### COOPERAGE

33% new French Oak

### BARREL AGING

20 months

### VINEYARD

The 2020 vintage was unforgettable. For the first half of the growing season our vineyards were an escape from the rest of the world with well-timed rains in the spring, no frost events and moderate to cool temperatures through July. However, conditions changed dramatically in August and September with two separate weeks of record-breaking heat which accelerated ripening. In addition, fires to the north and south of us brought periods of smoke exposure. Fortunately, our vineyards escaped major smoke damage and temperatures cooled enough to allow our grapes to develop and ripen optimally. A majority of the fruit for this wine came from a single block at Heart Hill Vineyard that is typically used as a foundation piece for Fog Catcher. In 2020, this block of Cabernet Franc embodied the qualities that we enjoy as a standalone variety, so we embraced it and bottled it as such.

### WINEMAKING

Our goal in the winery was to highlight the characteristics we love about this varietal, including its rustic red and blue fruit qualities and strong foundational tannins. We hand harvested and destemmed the fruit. It then went through a short fermentation in stainless steel tanks during which the juice was pressed off the skins. We aged the wine for 20 months in French oak barrels, 33% of which were new. A small amount of Cabernet Sauvignon (4%) was blended in for color and texture. Minimal intervention in the winery coupled with the light oak impression allowed us to focus on plush fruit characteristics and complimentary flavors. The 2020 Cabernet Franc is juicy with cranberry and pomegranate flavors followed by chalky, persistent tannins.

