

NINER

WINE ESTATES

2020

SYRAH

Heart Hill Vineyard, Paso Robles

WINEMAKER

Patrick Muran

CLONE

174, 877, Alban, 7

ROOTSTOCK

101-14, 1130P

HARVEST DATE

September 4th- October 13th

AVERAGE BRIX

24.7°

AVERAGE YIELD

2 Tons/Acre

pH / TA

3.8/5.9 g/L

ALCOHOL

13.9%

BLEND

100% Syrah

COOPERAGE

38% 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. We picked the grapes for this wine in two stages in 2020. The first stage, an early pick from block 6 on 9/4, gave us fresh fruit, low alcohol and soft tannins. Second, a later pick on 10/13 from block 11 gave us dark fruit and mulled spices. The two contrasting picks complemented each other in the final wine.

WINEMAKING

We hand-sorted, destemmed and gravity-fed the grapes into closed-top stainless-steel tanks. 70% of the grapes were destemmed, 20% fermented whole-cluster and another 10% had dried stem inclusion, adding dimension, texture and structure to the finished wine. We aged the wine in French oak barrels for 20 months, 42% of which were new. This wine is presenting wonderfully right now and should continue to evolve over the next 5 years.