

NINER

WINE ESTATES

2022

SYRAH

Heart Hill Vineyard, Willow Creek District of Paso Robles

WINEMAKER

Patrick Muran

CLONE

877, 383, Alban, 174

ROOTSTOCK

101-14, 1103P

HARVEST DATES
September 6-13, 2022

AVERAGE BRIX
26.5°

AVERAGE YIELD
2.3 Tons/Acre

pH / TA
3.66/6.3 g/L

ALCOHOL
15.1%

VINEYARD
100% Heart Hill Vineyard

BLEND
100% Syrah

COOPERAGE
26% French Oak,
14% Hungarian Oak

BARREL AGING
20 months

CASES PRODUCED
719



VINEYARD

The 2022 vintage will likely be remembered as one of the most dynamic in the past two decades. It marked our third consecutive year of drought, with rainfall totaling just half of the average. Fortunately, we received rain at the right time in March and April, which enabled the development of healthy canopies. A generally cool and windy spring led to a below-average fruit set, which was offset by a flip to warm temperatures in June and July. The result was small berries, thick skins and intense concentration. The season culminated in a 10-day heatwave in late August and early September, which accelerated ripening across many varieties and triggered an unusually early and condensed harvest. We began picking on September 6th and finished by September 13th.

WINEMAKING

This wine brings together fruit from five distinct vineyard blocks, offering a compelling snapshot of Heart Hill Vineyard's character in the 2022 vintage. Each block was hand-harvested and vinified as a distinct lot, allowing us to tailor our approach to subtle differences in clone and location while building layered complexity in the final blend. The fruit was destemmed, optically sorted, and fermented primarily in stainless steel tanks, with 5% of the blend fermented in a French oak vat. Fermentation strategies varied by lot, with 20% of the blend incorporating stem inclusion to add aromatic lift, structure, and savory nuance. The wine aged for 20 months in a mix of French and Hungarian oak barrels, puncheons, and vats, with 40% new oak overall. The final blend was assembled just prior to bottling, resulting in a Syrah that is briny and dry, unfolding with notes of ripe plum, fruit leather, black olive, fennel, and molasses. It's complex, savory, and deeply expressive of place.