

NINER

WINE ESTATES

2023

CLUB 9

Heart Hill Vineyard, Willow Creek District of Paso Robles

WINEMAKER

Patrick Muran

CLONES

327, 400, 12, 47, 595, 596

ROOTSTOCK

101-14, 1103P

HARVEST DATES

October 9–November 2, 2023

AVERAGE BRIX

26.1°

AVERAGE YIELD

2.5 Tons/Acre

pH / TA

3.80/5.3 g/L

ALCOHOL

15.1%

VINEYARD

100% Heart Hill Vineyard

BLEND

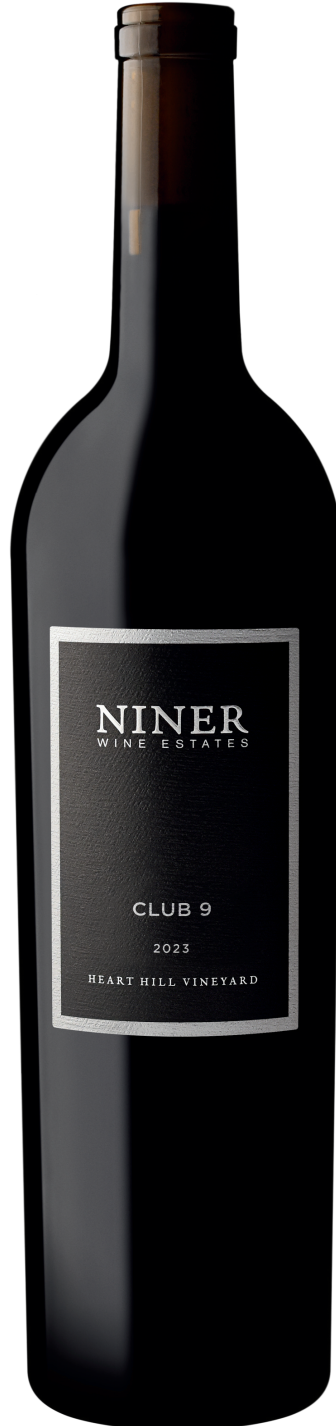
44% Cabernet Franc, 22% Petit Verdot,
22% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Malbec

COOPERAGE

33% New French Oak

BARREL AGING

20 months



VINEYARD

The 2023 vintage was long and cool and has been hailed by many local growers as one of the best vintages of the decade. The growing season started with a definitive end to three years of drought. We received 28 inches of rain over the winter with a series of storms that caused memorable flooding in the county. A cool spring delayed bud break across all varieties and was followed by a foggy and temperate summer with very few days above 80 degrees. This wine is built around fruit from the lower half of Block 2 Cabernet Franc, which gives us a restrained expression. We harvested the grapes in early November at the end of the growing season.

WINEMAKING

We sorted and de-stemmed the grapes and fermented them in stainless steel tanks. Fermentation lasted 12 days with gentle extraction, and we pressed the wine at dryness. We aged the wine 14 months in French oak before composing our chosen blend. The other varieties were chosen to complement Cabernet Franc: Petit Verdot contributes vibrant color and firm tannins, Malbec adds juicy blue and black fruit, and Cabernet Sauvignon brings structure and fruit complexity. We aged the final blend in oak barrels for an additional 6 months before bottling. The result is a medium bodied wine with lots of aromatics, mouthwatering minerality and fresh flavors.