

# brick & mortar

2017  
syrah  
west block  
sonoma coast



## **TECHNICAL NOTES:**

*Vineyard Designation: West Block  
AVA: Sonoma Coast  
Production: 150 cases  
Alcohol: 13.5%  
Release Date: March 1st, 2019*

## **VINEYARD**

West Block is located in a cool, wind-blown area of Petaluma in the Sonoma Coast AVA. Planted in the early-90's to the Joseph Phelps clone of Syrah, this vineyard block is oriented east-west allowing even ripening during the long, extended growing season. The close proximity to the San Pablo Bay create a maritime climate that further accentuates the cool climate for Petaluma. The soils are derived from decomposed sandstone and shale, adding intense structure and complexity to our West Block Syrah.

## **VINTAGE**

The 2017 vintage will be remembered for the challenges and extremes that only Mother Nature can dish out. The year began with abundant rainfall, a welcome change following five years of dry conditions. Spring weather was mild, resulting in extended flowering in some areas with a little shatter. A warm and uneventful summer growing season was upended by an intense Labor Day heatwave that caused vines to shutdown for 10-14 days before regaining their strength. While devastating wildfires in the North Bay in October marred both the landscape and the overall sentiment of the region, the 2017 vintage was one of outstanding wine quality.

## **WINEMAKING**

We strive to allow the site to shine in every wine we produce. West Block Syrah undergoes an extended cold soak until native yeast begin a spontaneous fermentation in open-top fermenters, where the grapes are punched down by hand once to twice per day. Our small lot fermentations, with 50% whole cluster, take upwards of a month before a light pressing to barrel for their extended aging. Our Syrah remains in 100% used French oak barrels for 6 months and then is racked once prior to bottling.

## **WINE**

Boisterous violets, Damson plum and fresh blackberries shine through the beautiful earthy and crushed stone components of this wine. Notes of fresh Bay leaf and graphite create depth to further accentuates the aromas of fennel seeds and dried herbs. Fine tannins and a plush mid-palate create an alluring wine that is youthful upon release and will age gracefully for the next 8-10 years.

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