



VINTAGE 2017...YET ANOTHER WILD RIDE!



2017 - AN AMAZING YEAR OF PRAISE

With the 4th and final set of critical reviews just in, I can proudly say that we are growing and crafting the most praised and highest scoring wines on Foxen Canyon Road. We have also garnered our highest scores ever and the highest number of high scores ever. Even more importantly, we have strived tirelessly to improve the quality and notoriety of the Estate Vineyard. We have re-planted, grafted, re-trained and dropped countless hundreds of tons of fruit to the ground over the last few years in pursuit of perfection. As we have learned more about this stunning vineyard, we have been experimenting with new blends, two of which we bottled last year. We also were finally able to bottle an Estate Grown Syrah for the first time since 2005. Yes, it has taken me a decade to find the right clones and the right home to be confident enough to bottle up this wine. The attention to detail and thoughtful and careful planning yielded some impressive results...all three of these new wines received a 93-94 point rating. I cannot wait to share these with you soon, later this year and into next!



SUCH A BEAUTIFUL TIME OF YEAR!

No two vintages are alike. Some are early, some are late, some are heavy and others are light. This is one of the myriad allures to growing and crafting quality wines in our cool, coastal climate. Mother nature keeps us on our toes, keeps us alert, and yes, often, keeps us awake this time of year. So, as per usual, there is nothing "normal" about the 2017 vintage so far. The year began with the blessing of lots of much needed rains during the winter and early spring. Our thirsty vines and soils drank it all up and pushed out normal to above average yields of some healthy looking fruit. We suffered through some heat in the spring and some cool weather in the early part of summer. Crazy enough, it began to look and feel like a potentially

"normal" vintage. I should have known that a knuckle ball was headed our way. In the weeks leading up to Labor Day, we suffered through some EXTREME heat for several days on end...with daytime temps reaching as high as 114 and strangely warm nighttime temperatures in the 70s. Grape sugars soared with the heat, but flavor development lagged. Our 25+ years of experience steered us away from harvesting our grapes and so we took a deep breath and hoped for cooler weather to return, which would force the grapes back into balance. This is exactly what happened. The gamble paid off. Just as I was about done patting myself on the back, the rains came back in the form of a freak deluge that dropped nearly a half inch on our vines. Thankfully, this dried out quickly due to the coastal, sunny breezes in the days to follow. I momentarily looked for a return to "normalcy". Boy, was I wrong...again. We received another freak rain storm about a week later that dropped at least a half inch on the vines. This has now been followed by our normal fall temperatures with highs in the 70s and 80s and lows in the 50s. As of today, we have only harvested a few tons. 95 percent of our harvest is still hanging. So, now we wait for warm, sunny days to dry up all the rain and to finish the ripening season. Though I am tense and nervous, I find solace in my experience of having seen lots of "weird" and "extreme" weather. I also find refuge in knowing that we are in the best climate for growing and crafting our wines. I would not want to be anywhere else. So, now we wait until our grapes are at peak perfection. And, often, waiting is truly the hardest part. I hope that our patience, passion, and hard work shines through in the quality of our Wines! I hope that you love them all!



WE REALLY GET INTO OUR WORK!

FEATURED WINES

2016 ENCHANTÉ, ESTATE GROWN

a blend of Estate Grown Roussanne and Grenache Blanc is a dead ringer for a great CdP blanc...

2015 ESPÉRANCE, ESTATE GROWN

our most versatile red wine that we craft and bottle each year...

2015 MOURVÈDRE, ESTATE GROWN

we just received an amazing score of 93 Points for this beauty...our best Mourvedre to date!

2015 SYRAH, STOLPMAN VYD.

a classic Syrah, from a great hillside site, along a stunning canyon road...



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON.

Cheers,

Andrew Murray



FEATURED WINES

2016 ENCHANTÉ, CURTIS VINEYARD, ESTATE GROWN

The French say “Enchanté” when they greet each other. We have named our Estate-Grown, signature white blend of Grenache Blanc and Roussanne after this expression. These two varieties are truly yin and yang. Roussanne is rich and unctuous, while Grenache Blanc is bright and racy. The two complement each other perfectly! We fermented and aged this wine in older French Oak barrels, which lends a beautifully smooth texture to this dry white wine that is ready to drink immediately. But, do not be fooled, this rich white wine will continue to improve for 3-5 years. We are excited that this wine was just awarded 90 Points!

600 cases produced \$28/btl

2015 ESPÉRANCE, CURTIS VINEYARD, ESTATE GROWN

Our Espérance is our signature red blend each vintage. The name means “hope” in French, and it alludes back to the moment that I fell in love with wine (the restaurant, that I was eating at when I decided I wanted to devote my life to wine, was named L’Espérance). The wine is as big and rich and delicious and drinkable as ever. It just received 91 points from the famed critic, Antonio Galloni. This vintage is 65% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre, and 15% Syrah. The aromas and flavors are dominated by Grenache-like notes of spicy red berries, made darker and more interesting by the other two varieties. This is the ultimate red wine for the fall/winter season as it can be enjoyed during these last hot days of fall as a slightly chilled red or as a rich, ripe red to accompany a cold winter’s evening. Drink now or hold for up to 10 years.

700 cases produced \$30/btl

2015 MOURVÈDRE, CURTIS VINEYARD, ESTATE GROWN

Mourvèdre is a pretty darn easy grape to grow. It favors setting a rather large crop, with shoots that seem to nearly tuck themselves into our training and catch wires. The fruit is hearty and can survive blistering heat waves and even rain during a vintage. At the same time, Mourvèdre is a terrible grape to grow. It requires lots of warm days to get ripe and it is among the last grapes that we harvest each year. We have to work tirelessly in the vineyard to remove leaves and open up the canopy for air flow and sunlight penetration. We also drop lots of fruit to the ground to ensure a modest crop of densely flavored grapes. Basically, everything that makes it easy to grow, makes it incredibly difficult and expensive to grow at the high end, with the goal of making incredible and inspiring wines. The 2015 Vintage certainly had its challenges for all of our grapes (low yields, early & hot harvest, etc.) but, these difficulties created the perfect opportunity to allow our Mourvèdre to shine. This is the BEST Mourvèdre that we have ever grown and bottled. We are so proud and honored that the wine just received 93 Points...among the highest scores for any Mourvèdre bottling from anyone, and certainly at this price. Please enjoy this wine over the next 5 years.

300 cases produced \$36/btl

2015 SYRAH STOLPMAN VINEYARD, BALLARD CANYON**

This beautiful Syrah is a perennial fan favorite, from the famed Stolpman Vineyard that grows within the newer Ballard Canyon AVA. This is a dark Syrah, but do not let the darkness fool you. This is always such a beautiful and classically structured wine. Everything is in balance within this wine...the aromas and flavors are of black cherries, white pepper, and candied violets. The acidity and tannins are there and point towards a nice life in the bottle, but with gentle decanting, you could drink this bottle tonight. I hope that you love this very limited Syrah as much I enjoyed crafting and bottling it for you.

Limited production \$45/btl **Only included in select shipments.

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2015 ROASTED SLOPE - 94 POINTS!



We are so excited to announce that the 2015 Roasted Slope (Syrah + Viognier) was just awarded 94 Points from Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate. This ranks amongst our highest scoring Roasted Slope bottlings ever. We are incredibly proud to announce that this will soon be released as magnums to our Magnum Club Members. Are you a member of this very limited and restricted club? Lucky You! Want to be a member? Please phone or email us to find out if any spots remain in this club...

CURRENT RELEASES - LIMITED

2016 GRENACHE BLANC

Retail Price: \$25.00/bottle
Wine Club: \$20.00/bottle

2015 GRENACHE - 91 POINTS!

Retail Price: \$36.00/bottle
Wine Club: \$28.80/bottle

2015 SYRAH ALISOS - 92 POINTS!

Retail Price: \$36.00/bottle
Wine Club: \$28.80/bottle

2015 ROASTED SLOPE - 94 POINTS!

Retail Price: \$45.00/bottle
Wine Club: \$36.00/bottle

2014 SYRAH THOMPSON - 92+ POINTS!

Retail Price: \$45.00/bottle
Wine Club: \$36.00/bottle