

ANGELS & COWBOYS

2017 PROPRIETARY RED



VINTAGE 2017 brought significant rainfall to California, filling up reservoirs and replenishing much-needed soil moisture. This rain refreshed cover crops that were previously stunted by drought and brought impressive vigor to the vines thus requiring significant additional canopy management. The growing season began a bit early and was notable for the several mini heat waves throughout the setting stage and summer which contributed to a reduced crop load. Harvest began early but mid-September brought cooler temperatures and slowed the pace which allowed us a few days to catch our breath before diving back in. A final heat wave ripened all remaining fruit virtually at once during the final week of September.

Sourcing for the Angels & Cowboys blend takes us far and wide across Sonoma County; the southern reaches of Carneros, slopes of Sonoma Mountain, rolling hills of Sonoma Valley, and pockets of the Russian River Valley, Dry Creek Valley, and Alexander Valley. Our mission is to find unique parcels of richly textured, supple, high-intensity fruit that will integrate harmoniously into a blend where the whole is so much greater than the sum of its parts.

WINEMAKER NOTES Designed for those of us who love depth and complexity. We start with a base of briary, juicy Zinfandel and layer in depth from complementary varieties including tangy Carignane, floral Malbec, and meaty Syrah. To harness all the volume and tame the power we age in French oak, which imparts robust vanilla, amber honey, and roasted hazelnut flavors as well as a velvety mouthfeel.

TASTING NOTES The dark cherry/mahogany red color is indicative of the luscious palate structure which leads with briar/bramble berry fruit backed by notes of violets, sweet hibiscus juice, black currant conserves, and red-flesh plum. Meaty and mouthwatering with succulent edges, the full body is built on a tannin structure that starts out silky and fine then builds to a firm yet smooth finish that lingers indulgently on the palate.

TECHNICAL Zinfandel - based with a supporting cast of Syrah, Malbec, Petite Sirah, Carignane, and Merlot

TA: 6.5 g/L pH: 3.62 Alcohol: 14.8%

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