

2016 Sonoma County *Cuvée Christine Syrah*

The 2016 vintage was a relief for Donelan after the low yielding, shatter-laden, hot vintage of 2015. Some people referred to the vintage as a goldilocks year because everything was just right. Bud break, flowering, veraison were all on schedule and came in predictably. Harvest was neither too warm, nor too cool. This gave us much flexibility. Picks and sugar maturation happened at a slow, even pace. Slow physical ripeness allowed the grapes to ripen in parity. 2016 was a magical vintage.

Usual suspect vineyards are present in this blend; Kobler, Lawer, Steiner... the 2016 marks a new addition to the blend. We were fortunate enough to secure a little bit of fruit from our friends, The Mansfield's Cardiac Hill block of Syrah. Although only 2 barrells of the entire blend, it really ratcheted up the quality of the final product. We're not the only ones who think so. The 2016 vintage was awarded 97 points by Antonio Galloni and 94 points from Jeb Dunnuck. We refer to it as our gateway drug to Syrah. It runs the full gambit, has fruit, spice and savory. There's something for everyone here. This wine's quality to price ratio is unmatched.

On the nose, mulberries, blood orange, white flower, coffee grinds. Possesses not only great length, but great breadth on the palate. Round, supple tannins, long 45 plus second finish. The whole cluster fermentation gives it backbone without being too firm.

Cellar Notes:

Percentage New Oak

48%

Barrel Aging

22 months

Bottling Date

August 2018

Composition

100% Syrah

Alcohol

14.5%

Production

548 cases

~38% Whole Cluster · Native Ferment/Native ML

