

WINE IS A JOURNEY NOT A DESTINATION

*Donelan*

DONELAN FAMILY WINES

## 2018 Sonoma County *Cuvée Moriah*

Although Moriah is the youngest of Joe Donelan's kids, the Cuvée Moriah is the product of one of our oldest grower relationships. We've been working with Dry Stack Vineyard, the source for the Grenache, for almost two decades. From a winemaker's perspective, the 2018 vintage was wonderful. Mother Nature did not rush us and instead gave us plenty of rain, no heat spikes, and an unrushed harvest. Our Cuvée Moriah is an ode to the old school wines of Chateaufort du Pape. Cool climate Grenache takes the lead with hallmark flavors of red kirsch, framboise, sweet raspberries, and raspberry compote. There's always a pretty white pepper spice element that comes from the whole cluster inclusion. The Mourvedre gives the wine some heft, darkens the fruit profile, adds mid-palate, and a gamey characteristic to the wine.

We chose to age the Grenache and Mourvedre in puncheons - a very old world technique. Grenache is a variety, especially if it is aged for as long as we do (22 months in barrel), the puncheons provide for less oxygen ingress, keeping the wine fresh over time while helping flesh out some of the aggressive tannin that naturally comes with Grenache. The combination of tannin and acidity make it a great food pairing wine. Enjoy it with stews or bouillabaisse. I always think food from the Iberian Peninsula is a great pair with Grenache. It's a fun wine. Before we made Pinot Noir, this was our answer. It's a variety I wish people knew more about in the new world.

### *Cellar Notes:*

#### **Percentage New Oak**

15.7%

#### **Bottling Date**

Summer 2020

#### **Alcohol**

14.4%

#### **Composition**

82% Grenache

18% Mourvedre

#### **Production**

294 cases

