

WINE IS A JOURNEY NOT A DESTINATION

*Donelan*

DONELAN FAMILY WINES

## 2021 Bennett Valley Cardiac Hill Syrah

99 Points Antonio Galloni, *Vinous*

The 2021 vintage is our fourth release of Cardiac Hill Syrah from the Jemrose Vineyard, and it's an instant classic that speaks to the power of cool-climate Syrah. This site is planted in the coldest of expositions in the naturally cool Bennett Valley. It's one of our latest harvests each year, and the loose cluster, small berry clone of Syrah ensures that we have a high skin-to-juice ratio. These specific terroir and grape qualities set the stage for a savory, full-bodied, and structured Syrah.

2021 was a warm growing season but cooler than the year before, which we welcomed. As we took early crop estimations, we measured super low cluster rates, and we knew we had a year of flavorful wines on our hands.

The 2021 Cardiac Hill Syrah is the darkest and deepest color across all of its vintages, and it resembles more purple than red. This wine is still a baby and is a bit closed down and shy. Once it opens up, it blossoms into alluring layers of asphalt, smoked rock, and charred lamb leg with rosemary and thyme. An essence of distilled boysenberry appears on the palate with silky, mouth-coating tannin. Drink now through 2037.

### *Vineyard Notes:*

#### **Location**

Tucked into Jemrose Vineyard, the small Cardiac Hill vineyard block earned its name because of the steep, rocky, north-facing slope it is planted to. The Estrella River selection of Syrah and the limited rocky soils yields some of the smallest and most flavorful Syrah fruit around.

### *Cellar Notes:*

#### **Percentage New Oak**

33%

#### **Barrel Aging**

18 months

#### **Bottling Date**

April 2023

#### **Composition**

100% Syrah

#### **Alcohol**

14.8%

#### **Production**

144 cases

~22.7% Whole Cluster · Native Ferment/Native ML

