



## 2018 Barrel Blend

**Production:** 4,015 cases

**Composition:** 48% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Zinfandel, 8% Petite Sirah, 6% Syrah, 6% Malbec, 3% Pinot Noir and 2% Viognier

**Vineyards:** Beau Terre, Beau Terroir, Dunlop, Stewart, Guck, Villagio, Baker, Windy Flats and Clarke.

**Elevation:** Valley floor, rolling hills and steep hillsides

**Cooperage:** 10 months in 20% new oak (10% French, 4% American, and 6% Hungarian)

**Alcohol:** 14.8%, TA 0.61, pH 3.70

**Bottling date:** August 26, 2019

**Release date:** Spring 2020

**Release price:** \$32.00

**Accolade:** 93 points, James Suckling

The Hill Family Estate Barrel Blend is put together with the help of Kyle Knox, a great surfer and a wine professional who loved the idea of “being in the barrel” as both a wine term, and a surfing term. 2018 was a great winemaking year, with roller coaster weather and large crops in some areas. Merlot was of particularly high quality, plushy and deeply colored, and as usual bolstered by Petit Sirah and Zinfandel for added fruit layers. Cabernet Sauvignon was blended in for dignity along with Pinot Noir for grace. Early on, some of these varieties will come forth and sing solos before stepping back into the chorus, but overall, this was a very strong year and the wine knitted together quickly, so we expect this wine to provide entertainment and pleasure for years to come.

### **Winemaker Alison Doran’s tasting notes:**

A very balanced and layered red with beautiful raspberry, currant and dark-chocolate undertones. It’s medium-bodied with a solid core of fruit and ripe, silky tannins. Gorgeous finish.