



2017 Barrel Blend

Production: 4,025 cases

Composition: 44% Merlot, 17% Zinfandel, 16% Syrah, 7% Petit Sirah, 5% Malbec, 4% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Pinot Noir, 2% Petit Verdot and 2% Dolcetto

Vineyards: Beau Terre, Dunlop, Johnson, Guck, Hansen, Villagio, Baker, Windy Flats, Flat Rock, Saltonstall, Clarke, Wendel, Beau Terroir

Appellation: Napa Valley

Elevation: Valley floor

Cooperage: Aged 10 months in 20% new oak (8% French, 4% American, and 8% Hungarian)

Alcohol: 14.8%, TA 0.61, pH 3.75

Bottling date: August 15 and 16, 2018

Release date: Spring 2020

Release price: \$32.00

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. 2017 was a fairly normal year, with roller coaster weather. Then late August hit with an unusually durable heat wave. It was tough on the vines, and the grapes began rolling in. All grapes were harvested before the big fire hit. Malbec and Merlot had great berry fruit and dense color, though they had less body. The Syrah and Petite Sirah were great assets for density and texture, and always combine well with the fruity Zinfandel from Wooden Valley. In 2017 we added a little Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot for dignity and some Pinot Noir for grace.

Winemaker Alison Doran’s tasting notes:

The 2017 Barrel Blend offers aromas of blueberry, red cherry, and some deeper black fruit as it opens up. The palate is soft and rich, with flavors of blueberry, black pepper, jammy blackberry and black cherry. While the finish is robust, it has friendly tannins and plushy textured fruit.