



### **2017 Grenache/Syrah/Mourvedre, Helen's Gate Vineyard, Rutherford**

Our Grenache/Syrah/Mourvedre is a celebration of the feminine and earthy side of this classic blend, where the Syrah is the "skin," the Grenache is the "flesh," and the Mourvedre is the "skeleton."

The wine is a field blend and is co-fermented, so we don't have exact percentages of the blend, but it is roughly one-third Grenache, one-third Syrah, and one-third Mourvedre. We planted the vineyard as a field blend but the vines all produce different amounts.

We made the wine 50% whole cluster and 50% destemmed (on top of the whole cluster), and did manual punch downs. We pressed after approximately two weeks on the skins, and aged the wine in neutral barrels for 10 months.

The wine was fermented with native yeast and nothing, including SO<sub>2</sub>, was added during the entire lifetime of the wine. It was bottled unsulfured and unfiltered.

The pH is 4.01, the TA is 4.9 g/l, and the alcohol is 12.2%. 64 cases were made.

The Grenache/Syrah/Mourvedre is earthy, with crunchy red plum, blackberry, tar, and black pepper. It has gorgeous tannins and texture.

### **The Vineyard**

The organically farmed Helen's Gate Vineyard is the home of Arthur Berliner and Marian Lever. It sits on an east-facing hill along Whitehall Lane in the Rutherford District of Napa Valley. We planted the vines in 2009. The Vineyard is organically managed, with all farming done by hand (no tractors). The vines are surrounded by Marian's riotous plantings of flowers and fruit trees.