



HILL FAMILY
E S T A T E



2020 “Clarke Vineyard” Syrah

Production: 400 cases

Composition: 96% Syrah and 4% Viognier

Vineyards: Clarke and Windy Flats

Cooperage: 10 months in French oak barrels, 25% new Tonnellerie O Elevage, with the remainder in neutral oak barrels.

Alcohol: 15.25% alc, 3.78 pH, 0.56 TA

Bottling date: August 23, 2021

Release date: February 2023

Release price: \$56.00

The Clarke Vineyard in American Canyon has a cool breezy climate that brings out the depth and finesse of the Syrah grape. Clone 877 is used for body and raspberry chocolate fruit, and a little Clone 383 for extra color and smoky complexity. A small amount of Viognier was co-fermented with the Syrah to add its exotic appeal. 2020 was a difficult year and we were glad to harvest the grapes by September 15 and still get that gummy bear grape concentration. We gave the tank 3 days of cold soak before adding Williams Selyem yeast, then pressed it on September 23. It went to barrel 2 days later and stayed in barrel for 10 months. Rich fruit and a soft palate characterize the Syrah from Clarke Vineyard and in 2020, it again has the show stealing exotic charm that it casts every time a bottle is opened.

Winemaker Alison Doran’s tasting notes:

The 2020 Clarke Syrah offers intriguing aromas of toasted marshmallow, black fig, mezcal, hoisin sauce and iris flower – something new shows up every time you swirl the glass! The flavors follow the nose with toasted marshmallow, ripe black fig and black cherry. All this fun flavor and deep gentle texture make this wine a favorite every time!