

2015 Barrel Blend

Production: 4,440 cases
Composition: 34% Merlot, 30% Zinfandel, 18% Malbec, 5% Petit Sirah, 5% Pinot Noir, 4%
Syrah, 2% Petit Verdot & 2% Cabernet Sauvignon.
Vineyards: Beau Terre, Windy Flats, Beau Terroir, Baker, Nelson, Flat Rock, Polson Road & Apallas.
Appellation: Napa Valley
Elevation: Valley floor - 1,200 ft.
Cooperage: 45% new oak (about 10% American barrels, the rest French barrels or Stavin).
Aged 10 months in barrel.
Alcohol: 15.3%, TA 0.59, pH 3.73
Bottling date: August 12th, 2016
Release date: Spring 2017
Release price: \$30.00/bottle

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. This wine was blended under Kyle's direction using lots mostly produced by Doug Hill from the vineyards he manages, to appeal to surfers, and surfers in spirit, who are always looking for the next great wave, but might want to have a great glass of wine in the mean time. 2015 was a meager crop year, with roller coaster weather and an early harvest. The small crops of Malbec and Merlot had great berry fruit and dense color. The Syrah and Petit Sirah were great assets for density, color, and texture, and in combination with the big fruity Zinfandel from Wooden Valley, and a little Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot for dignity and some Pinot Noir for grace and a more refined nature, we expect this wine to grow for years to come.