



## 2016 BROKEN AXLE STAGECOACH VINEYARD - NAPA VALLEY

### *Vintage*

Drought conditions persisted through the 2016 growing season with many new records set with bud break and early ripening in all our vineyards. The plants continued to accelerate their cycle through harvest with some of the earliest pick dates on record. All our grapes were harvested before the first significant Autumn rain. Set was decent and the dry conditions were perfect for sustainable farming with very little disease pressure. Quality in 2016 was fantastic, and the weather during harvest time was ideal. The heat waves were mild and we had some wide picking windows to strategically plan our stylistic preferences for all wines. An incredible 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive high quality vintage.

### *Vineyard*

Stagecoach Vineyard is the largest contiguous vineyard in the Napa Valley spanning multiple AVAs, and four distinct regions. With planting started in 1995, Jan Krupp has removed billions of pounds of volcanic rock. Heavy mining equipment is used to prepare the soil before planting. There are behemoth dump trucks that have lived and died on the property inspiring the name "Broken Axle." Our blocks of Syrah (Alban clone) and Grenache (Alban clone) are located in the Pritchard Hill region of the property at 1500' elevation. The soils are red Hambricht complexes and with Guenoc outcroppings. Dynamite was used to clear this well-exposed southwest slope. The soils are de-vigorating to the vines due to great drainage and sparse nutrients. The vines produce light crops of extremely small black berries transforming into intense, powerful wines.

### *Winemaking*

Grapes were hand-harvested and arrived at the winery at dawn. Once received, the grapes were sprinkled with dry ice to keep cold and protect from oxidation. The Grenache was fully destemmed, and fed whole-berry to the open-top stainless steel fermenter. A saignée was taken from the Grenache for concentration and the whole cluster Syrah was then added on top. The native fermentation commenced on day seven of cold soak and completed promptly. A week long maceration on the skins commenced after fermentation. The wine was distributed to 50% new French oak barrels and completed malolactic fermentation by Christmas. Bottling was completed before harvest 2018 after 22 months elevation on lees.

### *Tasting Notes*

The nose is voluptuous with blueberry, blackberry and violet that lead to sweet freesia. The palate is fresh and juicy on the initial attack. Silky tannins lead the mid palate and finish to tobacco, dark cocoa, strawberry, earthy balsamic, pencil shavings and boysenberry. A crowd pleaser, this wine can wow a crowd now and over the next 15 years.

### *Analysis*

Harvested:	September 27, 2016 and October 10, 2016
Composition:	55% Syrah, 45% Grenache
Alcohol:	14.9%
Bottling Date:	August 2018
Release Date:	September 2021
Production:	273 cases

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