



HYDE DE VILLAIN

2017 BELLE COUSINE HYDE VINEYARD NAPA VALLEY

PROPRIETORS:	Mr. and Mrs. Aubert de Villaine Mr. and Mrs. Laurence W. Hyde Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Hyde III
APPELLATION:	Los Carneros, Napa Valley
VINEYARD:	Hyde Vineyard, at the eastern edge of Los Carneros District
AGE OF VINES:	17 to 33 years
EXPOSURE:	South by southwest
SOIL:	Haire Clay Loam
SUBTERRANEAN:	Ancient terraces and alluvial fans
ACREAGE:	5.87 acres
HARVEST DATES:	September 12 (Merlot); October 12 (Cabernet Sauvignon)
VARIETAL BLEND:	40% Merlot, 60% Cabernet Sauvignon
BARREL AGING:	21 months in French oak; 20% new
BOTTLED:	July 19, 2019; unfinned and unfiltered
ALCOHOL:	14.2%

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2017 vintage will always be remembered. The winter months were wet and cold, allowing the vines to rest after their productive 2016 campaign. Bud break occurred in March, with a mix of warm and cool days, frigid nights and several rain episodes during the early stages of flowering. These conditions resulted in a low, uneven set.

A warm dry pattern followed through the end of August, until two major heat waves hit in early September, dramatically affecting ripening conditions. As a result of the intense heat, the vines shut down and the brix and acidity levels in the grapes flatlined for the next three weeks. In late September, the vines came back to life and gave us one last push, resulting in wines with harmonious balance and freshness.

Harvest started the third week of August and was concluded by the first week of October, right before traumatic wildfires scorched through Napa and Sonoma counties, giving a catastrophic end to an already challenging vintage.

WINEMAKER NOTES

Deep aromas of black cherry and dark chocolate are balanced by cassis and anise. Subtle tones of tobacco and coffee round the palate for a full and rich finish. Perfumed violet and bright acidity bring feminine influence, offset by a robust tannic structure and subtle herbal notes in this highly ageable Bordeaux blend.

WHO IS LA BELLE COUSINE?

The name Belle Cousine is a reference to Pamela Fairbanks de Villaine, Larry Hyde's lovely cousin who is the wife of Aubert de Villaine of Burgundy. It is Pamela who brings these visionary viticultural families from Burgundy and the Carneros region of Napa Valley together to make wines that express the character of place, with that rare minerality so dear to the Burgundian palate.

