



MORGAN

CRAFTING HIGHLANDS' HISTORY



2013 DOUBLE L VINEYARD SYRAH

<i>appellation:</i>	SANTA LUCIA HIGHLANDS
<i>vineyard:</i>	DOUBLE L
<i>rootstock:</i>	110-14, 420A
<i>clones:</i>	383 & 470
<i>soils:</i>	ARROYO SECO & CHUALAR LOAM
<i>climate:</i>	VERY COOL, REGION I (UCD)
<i>alcohol:</i>	14.4%
<i>acidity:</i>	6.7 G/L
<i>ph:</i>	3.54
<i>cooperage:</i>	14 MONTHS IN 100% BORDEAUX BARRELS
<i>production:</i>	190 CASES

THE GRAPE

Syrah, originally from the Rhone Valley in France, is one of the world's most widely planted wine grapes. Whether in Hermitage, Cote Rotie or Santa Lucia Highlands, Syrah from cool climates display equal parts intensity and structured elegance.

THE PLACE

The Double L Vineyard's location in the northern end of the Santa Lucia Highlands AVA affords Morgan the chance to grow the finest cool climate wine grapes. Planted on northeast facing terraces overlooking the Salinas River Valley, the north-south vineyard row orientation provides optimum sun exposure and access to the strong afternoon breezes. The winds moderate the afternoon temperature, thickening the grape skins and concentrating flavors. The vineyard is the first in the Santa Lucia Highlands to achieve both organic and sustainable certifications.

The 2013 growing season was a fairly textbook one throughout the Santa Lucia Highlands. Winter storms gave way to a warm spring and summer, with trademark afternoon winds off the Bay. With very few weather events, the fruit was allowed to develop slowly. Mildew pressure was at a minimum, insuring "clean," high quality fruit. The Syrah grapes from the Double L displayed full phenolic ripeness, with good sugar and acid balance.

THE WINE

Syrah is the last varietal to be harvested each year on the Double L. Ripe fruit is hand picked and sorted for optimal flavor and acidity. After being destemmed, 50% whole berry fermentation was started with native yeasts in small open tanks. Manual punch-downs and an extended maceration allowed for great flavor and color extraction with well integrated tannins. Fourteen months of aging in 31% new Bordeaux French barrels added polish and elegance.

This wine shows deep purple/black hues in the glass. Attractive aromas of black pepper, wildberry, cedar, cherry blossoms and leather are carried onto the palate with a rich and full mouthfeel of sage, tobacco, and black plum.