



MORGAN

CRAFTING HIGHLANDS' HISTORY



2014 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>	14.2%
<i>acidity:</i>	6.7 G/L
<i>ph:</i>	3.47
<i>cooperage:</i>	14 MONTHS IN BORDEAUX BARRELS; 42% NEW
<i>production:</i>	241 CASES
<i>retail price:</i>	\$42.00

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 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 2014 growing season saw a continuation of the drought in California. The lower than normal rainfall totals and dry winter led to early budbreak. The vineyards proximity to Monterey Bay mitigated the few heat events, allowing for a fairly normal, gentle, long ripening period. Fruit quality from the 2014 vintage was uniformly excellent.

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 42% new Bordeaux French barrels added polish and elegance.

This wine shows deep purple/black hues in the glass. Attractive aromas of dark cherry and bramble, blueberry with some cedar and caramel are carried onto the palate with a rich and full mouthfeel of spice, black plum and a long lingering mineral/graphite finish.