



# MORGAN

CRAFTING HIGHLANDS' HISTORY



## 2016 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>	14.5%
<i>acidity:</i>	7.2 G/L
<i>ph:</i>	3.41
<i>cooperage:</i>	14 MONTHS IN FRENCH OAK; 26% NEW
<i>production:</i>	225 CASES
<i>retail price:</i>	\$44.00

### THE GRAPE

Syrah, originally from the Northern 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 displays 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 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.

Budbreak at the beginning of the 2016 growing season was about 10 days earlier than normal, which also meant a somewhat early harvest at the end of the cycle. The winter/spring rainfall totals were better than 2015, but not near what the forecasters predicted. The spring and summer were mild with no extreme cold or hot periods, but mildew control was a challenge. Happily, no rain in the fall resulted in clean fruit.

### THE WINE

Syrah is the last varietal to be harvested each year on the Double L. The grapes are hand picked and sorted for optimal flavor and acidity. After destemming, the must is fermented to dryness in small open-top tanks. Fourteen months of aging in 26% new French barrels added polish and elegance.

This wine shows inky purple hues in the glass. Attractive aromas of liquorice and brambleberry, with white pepper and violets in the background, are supported by black fruit and leather on the palate.