



# MORGAN

CRAFTING HIGHLANDS' HISTORY



## 2017 DOUBLE L PINOT NOIR (CLONE RC)

<i>appellation:</i>	SANTA LUCIA HIGHLANDS
<i>vineyard:</i>	DOUBLE L
<i>clones:</i>	RC
<i>soils:</i>	ARROYO SECO & CHUALAR GRAVELLY SANDY LOAMS
<i>climate:</i>	VERY COOL, REGION I (UCD)
<i>alcohol:</i>	14.0%
<i>acidity:</i>	6.6 G/L
<i>ph:</i>	3.56
<i>cooperage:</i>	11 MONTHS IN FRENCH OAK; 45% NEW
<i>production:</i>	100 CASES
<i>retail price:</i>	\$65.00

### THE GRAPE

Clone RC refers to a very famous vineyard in Burgundy, one of the most celebrated Pinot Noir vineyards in the world. With cuttings smuggled from Burgundy back to Monterey County, we grafted a small block at the top of Double L to this elegant suitcase clone.

### 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 southeast 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 2017 vintage commenced with a refreshingly wet winter with rainfall totals 40% above average, flushing vineyard soils of built up salts, and promoting healthy root and cover crop growth in the early season. Temperatures were average through August, though September saw three heat waves, resulting in wines with a rich fruit core, underlaid by an elegance from the early and mid-season cool temperatures.

### THE WINE

The grapes were completely destemmed after hand sorting. Native yeasts began the whole berry fermentation in open top tanks. Manual punch downs provided supple texture and soft tannins. The wine was transferred to a combination of medium and medium-plus toast Burgundy barrels, 45% new, for malo-lactic fermentation and 11 months of aging.

This wine shows seductive aromas of strawberry, rose petal, and mocha. Rich and smooth on the palate, it's backed with intense flavors of tart cherry and pomegranate. A feminine style and very light on its feet, shows the delicate side of Double L.

