



# MORGAN

CRAFTING HIGHLANDS' HISTORY



## 2017 GI7 SYRAH

<i>appellation:</i>	SANTA LUCIA HIGHLANDS
<i>vineyards:</i>	PARAISO, DOUBLE L, TONDRÉ, RIVERBANK
<i>soils:</i>	SANDY & SHALY LOAMS
<i>climate:</i>	COOL, REGION I TO II
<i>alcohol:</i>	14.2%
<i>acidity:</i>	6.7 G/L
<i>pH:</i>	3.52
<i>cooperage:</i>	10 MONTHS IN FRENCH OAK; 25% NEW
<i>retail price:</i>	\$25.00



### THE GRAPE

Morgan GI7 is a blend of 90% Syrah, 5% Grenache, and 5% Tempranillo from northern and central Monterey County. "GI7" is one of Monterey County's best known highways, linking several of our grape growing appellations.

### THE PLACE

This wine is sourced primarily from the Santa Lucia Highlands and Arroyo Seco Appellations of Monterey County. Cool to moderate daytime temperatures are mitigated by ocean breezes and cool nights - fostering acidity and balance. Here the fog burns off early, allowing ample sunshine to warm temperatures to the mid 80's during the summer and fall. The warm air draws cool winds from the Monterey Bay in the late afternoon. By night time, temperatures cool to the low 50's.

The 2017 vintage commenced with a refreshingly wet winter with rainfall totals about 40% above average, flushing vineyard soils of built up salts, and promoting healthy root and cover crop growth in the early season. Bud break occurred in mid-March and fruit set in mid-May. The winter's rains acted as a double-edged sword, deferring the need to irrigate until June in many areas, but also requiring heavy shoot thinning, leafing, and hedging, as vine canopies were quite vigorous.

### THE WINE

The wine was fermented in open top tanks and received manual punch-downs. This enabled good extraction and structure development with pleasant tannins. After fermentation, the wine was transferred to French oak barrels. The 25% new oak gives the wine subtle spice and vanilla characters without overpowering the elegant fruit profile.

This Rhone-style blend has a rich ruby red color, highlighted with purple edges. Dried plum, raspberry, cinnamon, and hints of rose petal jump out of the glass. The wine is medium-full bodied with soft tannins, offering a mouthful of dark fruit and savory herbs. Its weight and balance make it a perfect pairing with anything off the grill.