



MORGAN

CRAFTING HIGHLANDS' HISTORY



2015 DOUBLE L PINOT NOIR CLONE 777

<i>appellation:</i>	SANTA LUCIA HIGHLANDS
<i>vineyard:</i>	DOUBLE L
<i>clones:</i>	777
<i>soils:</i>	ARROYO SECO & CHUALAR LOAM
<i>climate:</i>	VERY COOL, REGION I (UCD)
<i>alcohol:</i>	14.2%
<i>acidity:</i>	6.4 G/L
<i>ph:</i>	3.50
<i>cooperage:</i>	10 MONTHS IN FRENCH OAK; 50% NEW
<i>production:</i>	47 CASES
<i>retail price:</i>	\$64.00



THE GRAPE

"777" is one of the so-called "Dijon" clones. Originally from Morey St. Denis in the Cote d'Or, it is at the heart of some of Burgundy's greatest reds. This clone's typically smaller grape size and bunch weights make for intensity in both the fruit flavors and aromatics. Great color, forward fruit and spice, and a soft, elegant structure are hallmarks of 777.

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 2015 growing season saw a continuation of the drought in California. The lower than normal rainfall totals and dry winter led to early budbreak. The vineyard's proximity to the Monterey Bay mitigated the few heat events, allowing for a fairly normal, gentle, long ripening period. Yields were very low, and fruit quality from the 2015 vintage was uniformly excellent.

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, 50% new, for malo-lactic fermentation and 10 months of aging.

This wine shows seductive aromas of boysenberry, cinnamon stick, and a hint of rhubarb pie. Rich but still smooth on the palate is backed with an intense black cherry, toasty oak, and sweet baking spices.