



# MORGAN

CRAFTING HIGHLANDS' HISTORY



## 2017 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 LOAM (GRANITIC)
<i>climate:</i>	VERY COOL, REGION I (UCD)
<i>alcohol:</i>	13.5%
<i>acidity:</i>	7.1 G/L
<i>ph:</i>	3.42
<i>cooperage:</i>	10 MONTHS IN FRENCH OAK; 30% NEW
<i>production:</i>	121 CASES
<i>retail price:</i>	\$44.00

### THE GRAPE

Syrah, originally from the Northern Rhône Valley in France, is one of the world's most widely planted wine grapes. Whether in Hermitage, Côte-Rôtie 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 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 was certified organic in 2002, though it has been conscientiously farmed in this method since the original plantings in 1997.

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

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. Ten months of aging in 30% new French oak barrels added polish and elegance.

This wine shows inky purple hues in the glass. Attractive aromas of blackberries, wild plum, and leather are supported by white pepper and crushed violets. The flavors of purple fruits and savory spices go perfectly with the bright acidity and a silky texture to display classic cool-climate Syrah character.