

Brittan Vineyards

2015 "BLOCK R" RED BLEND

Winemaker Robert Brittan developed a love for Rhône varieties during his first visit to the Northern Rhône Valley in the early 1980's. Captivated by the cool climate Syrahs from Cornas and Côte-Rôtie and intrigued by the cool, windy climate in McMinnville, Robert was encouraged to explore how Syrah would express itself on his rugged, exposed hillside.

BLOCK NOTES

Block 23 (nicknamed "Block R" for Robert and Rhône) is a one-third acre parcel on the west side of Cygnus hill. This block, following a suggestion by Robert's daughter Chelsea and inspired by a block Robert revived at Stags' Leap Winery, is head trained and spur pruned and is planted in a 7-by-7 foot grid. This type of gobelet training provides small clusters and small berries, benefitting not just the Syrah but also the massale planted Grenache, Carignan, Viognier and Durif (Petite Sirah).

VINTAGE NOTES

2015 started out moderate, then showed some heat in mid-summer, followed by a relatively cooler fall. This allowed for good fruit maturity without high alcohol, resulting in wines that are elegant and nuanced. They are sure to gratify the palate now, as well as in the years to come.

TASTING NOTES

An expressive nose of ripe boysenberry and blackberry is evident from the start, although more like cobbler than fresh fruit (this is the warmest block on the property after all). Bright, herbal notes including sage and tarragon punctuate the rich midpalate and seem right at home with Syrah. Richness from the Durif and spice from the Grenache round out this exciting new release.

AVA: McMinnville

VINEYARD: Brittan Estate Vineyard

CASES PRODUCED: 22 cases

SELECTIONS: Syrah, Viognier, Durif, Grenache, Carignan

ELEVAGE: 15 months in once filled French oak

DATE BOTTLED: March 24, 2017

ALCOHOL: 12.6%

SRP: \$65/ 750 mL

