

# *Brittan Vineyards*

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## 2018 ESTATE SYRAH

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.

### **VINEYARD NOTES**

The Brittan Estate Vineyard lies just 12 miles southwest of McMinnville, tucked into the foothills of the Coast Range. The original 18 acres were planted in 2001, but due to the challenging nature of this site and limited topsoil, only eight acres survived. Since 2004 when Robert and Ellen purchased the vineyard, it has been an ongoing rehabilitation project, including the replanting of the Pinot Meunier blocks to Syrah in 2005. There are now two and a half acres of Syrah on site.

### **VINTAGE NOTES**

The 2018 vintage started cool and wet in February and March, which led to a more “normal” budbreak in April. The season quickly accelerated and was warm and dry beginning in May. Summer brought very warm, dry weather through August, which put pressure on the vines and produced fruit of great depth and concentration. September was dry but more moderate and allowed the fruit to reach full maturity by the end of the month.

### **TASTING NOTES**

The 2018 Syrah has a luscious, fruit driven core of blackberry, blueberry, cherry and pomegranate. These dark fruits are accented with briny green olive, green peppercorn, sandalwood and cedar. Balanced and expressive Syrahs from our estate vineyard make us wonder why there aren't more acres of Syrah planted here in the Willamette Valley.

AVA: McMinnville

VINEYARD: Brittan Estate Vineyard

CASES PRODUCED: 110 cases and 12 magnums

SELECTIONS: 174, 470, 870

ELEVAGE: 15 months in French oak, 20% new

DATE BOTTLED: March 16, 2020

ALCOHOL: 12.1%

SRP: \$50/ 750 mL, \$110/ 1500mL

