



## BARDEN

2018 Syrah, STA. RITA HILLS

The BARDEN trade name is Doug Margerum's middle name and its English meaning is "Lives near the boar's den..." thusly, we have adorned the label with an image of the wild boar that is pervasive in our area's vineyards.

**Vineyard Region:** Sta. Rita Hills –Donnachadh Vineyard (66%) & Peake Vineyard (34%)– a six barrel blend.

**Vintage Conditions:** 2018 a "normal" vintage allowed us to have a longer picking season, as the fall days became cooler and the days shorter. Our first grapes ripened in early to mid-September and the last varieties hung on vines until early November. With August start dates the harvest becomes very compacted as the heat of summer ripens the grapes quicker. It was a mellow growing season and the lack of any dramatic weather kept the vines healthy and happy with no signs of yellowing leaves and vines shutting down. Mild weather allows for more hang time which means the grapes reach that perfect balance of acidity and brix and develop more complex flavors.

**Alcohol: 12.8 ~ pH: 3.48 ~ TA: 5.9**

**Fermentation Regimen** – Fermented in 400 liter open top insulated fermenters in our 55 F winery, 50% Whole Cluster, 7 day cold soak, 10 days fermentation, pressed and barreled in 50% New Ermitage barriques, MLF in barrel and racked 1 time. Time in Barrel: 18 months

*Barden Syrah is shaped and sculptured. Its drapes reveal dark places full of the unknown; frighteningly sinister, packed, and powerful. Syrah is our blood-right and our passion.*

**Production in Cases: 144**

*Winemaker comments:*

**Color:** Beautiful dark velvet black hues

**Aroma:** Aromas of white pepper, dark plum fruit, oak and briar/stem green/black. As the wine opens more savage and powerful intense notes of olive and black licorice jump out of the glass.

**Palate:** firm, tannic and concentrated on the palate, young, tight and pure, with an excellent finish. Overall the persistent tannins, good acidity and loads of fruit bode well for long aging of 15 to 20 years.

**Peak Drinking:** Now – and with up to twenty years of bottle age from vintage.

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