

# Opolo

## 2019 SYRAH

### WILLOW CREEK DISTRICT

This 2019 Syrah is a limited-production reserve wine that comes exclusively from our estate Dove Pond Vineyard in the Willow Creek District, which is renowned for producing some of our region's most formidable Rhône-style wines.

#### Vineyards

Dove Pond Vineyard is situated along the southern portion of the Willow Creek District, directly in the path of cooling marine air that flows inland from the Templeton Gap, a notch in the coastal mountains. Here, the Syrah grape achieves impressive varietal typicity with a cool-climate character. The savory, peppery profile of this fruit merits its own single-vineyard reserve treatment from this notable district.

#### Winemaking

After harvesting, the fruit was cold soaked for three days for a gentle extraction of color and flavor. The fruit was picked on October 16 in the wake of a steady growing season that provided excellent hang time. After harvesting, the fruit was cold soaked for three days for a gentle extraction of color and flavor. The fruit was fermented in a mix of open top bins and stainless steel fermenters over a period of 15 days. The fermentation featured 10 percent whole-cluster stem inclusion to draw out enhanced qualities of savory spice. After fermentation, the free-run juice was separated and reserved exclusively for this reserve Syrah. The wine was matured in French oak barrels, inclusive of 35 percent new oak. Winemakers James Schreiner and Chris Rougeot selected barrels coopered by Damy, Epocure and Rousseau to draw out the best in the wine. At the five month mark, the final blend was assembled, then returned to barrels for another 15 months of integration and aging prior to bottling.

#### Winemakers' Tasting Notes

The 2019 Syrah Willow Creek is a blockbuster Syrah that is expressive of both terroir and vintage. A dense, dark hue foreshadows aromas of violet, acai berry, anise, graham cracker and toasted oak. Bold yet velvety flavors of blue and black fruits gain dimension with suggestions of smoked jerky and baking spice, all underpinned by a driving sense of minerality. The finish is smooth and supple, but also distinguished by a lingering sense of heft and structure.

#### Varietal Composition

Syrah 100%

#### Appellation

Paso Robles

#### Sub AVAs

Willow Creek District

#### Aging

20 Months in French Oak  
(35% New)

#### Analysis

TA: .66

pH: 3.99

Alc. by Volume: 14.8%

Cases Produced: 563

