



HYDE DE VILLAINE

2015 BELLE COUSINE HYDE VINEYARD NAPA VALLEY

PROPRIETORS:	Mr. and Mrs. Aubert de Villaine Mr. and Mrs. Laurence W. Hyde Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Hyde III
APPELLATION:	Los Carneros, Napa Valley
VINEYARD:	Hyde Vineyard, at the eastern edge of Los Carneros District
AGE OF VINES:	15 to 31 years
EXPOSURE:	South by southeast
SOIL:	Shallow loam over clay hardpan
SUBTERRANEAN:	Ancient terraces and alluvial fans
ACREAGE:	5.87 acres
HARVEST DATES:	September 12 (Merlot); September 15 (Cabernet Sauvignon)
VARIETAL BLEND:	53% Merlot, 47% Cabernet Sauvignon
BARREL AGING:	22 months in French oak; 30% new
BOTTLED:	July 31, 2017; unfinned and unfiltered
ALCOHOL:	14.5%
PRODUCTION:	554 cases (9L)

VINTAGE NOTES

The drought cycle that started in 2012 continued in 2015. As a result, we experienced a warm dry winter and an early start of the vegetative cycle with bud break in February. In May, unseasonably cool weather caused poor pollination, resulting in concentrated fruit due to *millerandage*—small, seedless berries amid a few normal berries, creating the intensity and complexity in the juice. The summer was hot overall at Hyde Vineyard. Thanks to a few cool days in early August, the growing season was extended, allowing the grapes to reach great maturity.

WINEMAKER NOTES

Perfumed lilac and lavender unfold into brush-strokes of black cherry and fresh cassis bud. Intricate and concentrated flavors of red currant, dill, and a hint of cola dance across the tongue. Provençal spices and green olive add to the depth and complexity. Full, velvety tannins are accented by the freshness of the acidity and minerality. Patience will be rewarded; this wine promises to have long-term aging potential.

WHO IS LA BELLE COUSINE?

The name Belle Cousine is a reference to Pamela Fairbanks de Villaine, Larry Hyde's lovely cousin who is the wife of Aubert de Villaine of Burgundy. It is Pamela who brings these visionary viticultural families from Burgundy and the Carneros region of Napa Valley together to make wines that express the character of place, with that rare minerality so dear to the Burgundian palate.

