



HYDE DE VILLAIN

2016 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:	16 to 32 years
EXPOSURE:	South by southwest
SOIL:	Haire Clay Loam
SUBTERRANEAN:	Ancient terraces and alluvial fans
ACREAGE:	5.87 acres
HARVEST DATES:	September 19 (Merlot); September 29 (Cabernet Sauvignon)
VARIETAL BLEND:	60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon
BARREL AGING:	22 months in French oak; 20% new
BOTTLED:	July 26, 2018; unfinned and unfiltered
ALCOHOL:	14.4%
PRODUCTION:	666 cases (9L)

VINTAGE NOTES

2016 started with a cold and wet winter, which gave the vines a well-deserved dormancy after the fast-paced growing season of 2015. Bud break occurred in mid-March and was followed by a dry and warm spring. This resulted in a healthy and vigorous canopy and ideal pollination, which provided a bountiful crop.

Heavy fog in early August slowed down the maturation process and allowed for optimal phenolic development while retaining the freshness and natural acidity Hyde Vineyard is known for. Harvest started the second week of August and was completed by the first week of October.

WINEMAKER NOTES

Black and red currant emerge in the nose as hints of sweet, dry basil and black pepper cavort their way upwards. Herbal hues of cassis bud and thyme frame the flavors of dark chocolate, rich cherry and sweet earth. In the background, complex strokes of fresh violet and graphite unfold as it develops in the glass. The supple tannin structure pirouettes with the acidity, leading towards an extended and robust finish. There is a power and a concentration to the wine inviting the drinker to take another sip.

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.

