



DOMAINE CARNEROS

2018 Hyde Vineyard Merlot

BLEND

100% Merlot
100% Hyde Vineyard

ABOUT OUR HYDE VINEYARD MERLOT

The Carneros area is planted overwhelmingly with Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, at 49% and 38% of the total acreage, respectively. And this is not without good reason as the climate is ideal for these two grape varieties. However, Carneros is a special, if not magical, place for Merlot. A place where the grapes can hang deep into October, developing additional layers of ripeness without losing freshness or acidity.

To re-launch our program, we went straight to Larry Hyde, who has been growing grapes in Carneros for over 40 years. Block #38 features a selection of Merlot from the historic “3 Palms” vineyard planted on St. George rootstock. The quadrilateral cane configuration opens up the canopy for light penetration, and we leave only 1-cluster per shoot, so each grape cluster hangs freely, never crowded by its neighbor. The yields are miniscule.

HARVEST

We picked our 1.25 acres (only 3.85 tons) on the 16th of October and proceeded with what we know best, gentle Pinot Noir treatment (de-stemming without crushing and open-top fermentation) to coax out the expression of this unique site of beautiful red clay. After fermentation we aged the five barrels for 20 months prior to unfiltered bottling. Cooperage selection included Rousseau for spice, and Francois-Frères for sweetness.

TASTING NOTES

Exotic dark fruits predominate on the nose with blackberry cobbler, crushed stone, anise, and violets. The hits keep on coming with the palate delivering a burst of sweet dark berries, followed by notes of saddle leather, tobacco leaf, and cocoa powder. The finish is long, rich, and silky. Taste a bit of Carneros history from this duly famous vineyard.

192 cases produced, available only at the winery.

TECHNICAL DATA

Appellation: Carneros
Harvest brix: 25.6°
Final pH: 3.51
TA: 0.57g/100ml
Alcohol: 14.8%

PRICE

\$68

