



## 2017 CALLUNA VINEYARDS CUVÉE

The 2017 Calluna Vineyards Cuvée is meant to be an expression of our Chalk Hill appellation where great sunlight and a cool climate produces intense fruit in a wine with balancing acidity, round tannins and moderate alcohol levels. The blend expresses the power of Cabernet Sauvignon, elegance of Merlot and Cabernet Franc, and a bit of showiness from Malbec and Petit Verdot.

With each new vintage, the varietal makeup of the Cuvée changes in order to achieve the optimal expression of our estate vineyards and the character of the growing season.

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### TECHNICAL DETAILS

*Appellation*

Chalk Hill

*Harvest dates*

Malbec: September 13, 2017

Merlot: September 19 & 29, 2017

Cabernet Franc: October 4, 2017

Cabernet Sauvignon: October 4 & 7, 2017

Petit Verdot: October 4, 2017

*Winemaking*

Hand-harvested, manually sorted and fermented with a traditional method in open-top tanks with temperature control.

*Farming*

Practicing Organic (as yet uncertified)

*Cooperage*

21 months in 100% French oak barrels, 20% new

*pH*

3.7

*Alcohol*

14.5%

*Production*

854 cases

*Release date*

Fall 2020

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*Vintage*

2017 will be remembered as the year ending in infernos as a counterpoint to the record rains beginning the season. While the drought had already ended, the Winter and Spring 2017 rains put an exclamation point on it with the measured annual rain season at a record-setting 50-60". Our fruit was in perfect shape at the end of August with solid yields. The first inferno was the Labor Day heat spike at 111°F for 2 days which destroyed about 30% of our crop. The second inferno was the Tubbs fire which was frightening but did not reach Calluna. All of our fruit was harvested before the fires (with the one exception of our Block 1 Cabernet which has been bottled separately as a precaution). So smoke taint was not an issue for us, but the sunburn from the high heat forced us to aggressively cull out unwanted fruit to leave us with high quality grapes with moderate sugar. Although our alcohols this year remain moderate, the wines show the generosity and size of a warmer vintage.

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### ABOUT CALLUNA VINEYARDS

Calluna Vineyards took root in Sonoma County in 2005 with 12-acres in the Chalk Hill appellation planted to Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Malbec. From its advantageous hillsides overlooking the Russian River Valley, Chalk Hill is known for its mild climate and soils of clay underlain with fractured shale and sandstone. Five more acres were added in 2014, including Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon destined for our Estate Blanc.

### DAVID A. JEFFREY, *Winemaker and Founder*

After 20 years of studying and collecting the wines of Bordeaux and California, David moved to the West Coast and enrolled in Fresno State's Enology program in 2001. Determined to make his dream a reality, David spent 3½ years studying winemaking and grape growing as he completed his degree and worked at Chateau Quinault in Bordeaux, France.