



THE HESS COLLECTION  
SMALL BLOCK SERIES  
**ZINFANDEL**  
2016



VARIETAL: 100% Zinfandel  
APPELLATION: Rockpile, Sonoma County  
HARVEST DATES: September 23 - October 1, 2016  
ALCOHOL: 14.9%  
pH: 3.97  
TA: 0.59 gms/100mL  
AGING: 12 months in 20% New French Oak Barrels

692 Cases Produced

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#### HESS SMALL BLOCK SERIES ZINFANDEL

Small Block wines allow the Hess Family to honor the winemaker's art, exploring vineyards, varietals and artisan techniques. This vibrant Zinfandel hails from the iconic Rockpile appellation. Located just 16 miles from the Pacific Ocean in the northwest corner of Sonoma County, the region is prized by those who love Zinfandel. Sweeping sun exposures, mountainous terroir and shallow, rocky soils stress the vines producing low yields with grapes of exceptional quality.

#### 2016 VINTAGE

Vintage 2016 had near perfect weather and continues the streak of great California vintages. Winter gave us our average amount of rainfall followed by a warm spring that allowed most varieties to set a nice crop. August cooled things off and allowed some increase in hang time and we didn't see any major heat spikes during September and October. Yields were above average for most. Overall, the harvest was another welcomed season, and we find the wines of the vintage to be of excellent quality.

#### WINEMAKER NOTES

"High above Lake Sonoma, the Rockpile vineyards range in elevation from 800 to 2,000 ft. The rocky, hillside conditions of the region, combined with the consistent sunshine that results from being above the fog line produces small yields and grapes with concentrated flavors. On the nose, the wine presents a beautiful bouquet of cassis and blueberries, which transitions seamlessly into the full bodied and elegant wine. In the glass, it possesses distinct varietal character, driven by black cherry and currant, supported by a perfectly balanced acidity and delicious notes of anise and molasses on the long, pleasing finish."

—Randle Johnson, Winemaker

#### FOOD PAIRING

An elegant but bold pairing with an array of dishes, standing well alongside hearty dishes such as Osso Bucco, roasted venison, filling cassoulets and richly sauced pastas.

- Chad Hendrickson, Executive Chef

#### LAND TRUST OF NAPA COUNTY

The Hess Collection is proud to support the Land Trust of Napa County, a community-based nonprofit dedicated to preserving the character of Napa by permanently protecting land.



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