



### **Helen's Gate Vineyard Rutherford Grenache/Syrah/Mourvedre No. 2**

Our Grenache/Syrah/Mourvedre is a celebration of the elegant and earthy side of this classic blend. The old conception of this perfect union of grapes is that the Syrah is the "skin," the Grenache is the "flesh," and the Mourvedre is the "skeleton." Ancient wisdom, still true. We made our second non-vintage GSM blend, where the beautiful earthy characters and deep concentration of the 2015 wine dovetailed perfectly with the freshness and aromas of the young 2016 wine.

The wine is co-fermented, so we don't have exact percentages of the blend, but it is roughly one-third Grenache, one-third Syrah, and one-third Mourvedre.

The wine is a non-vintage blend of 2 barrel of 2015 wine and 3 barrels of 2016 wine. We love the combination of primary and secondary flavors that the non-vintage blend gave us. In both years the grapes were fermented whole cluster in open top bins. We did manual punch downs. We pressed after approximately two weeks on the skins, and aged the wine in neutral barrels for 20 months for the 2015 and 8 months for the 2016 with no rackings.

The pH is 3.78, the TA is 5.1 g/l, and the alcohol is 13.5 %. 112 cases were made.

The Grenache/Syrah/Mourvedre is earthy, with dark plum, blackberry, tar, and black pepper. It has gorgeous tannins and texture.

The wine was bottled unfinned and unfiltered, and since it was also never racked, a slight cloudiness and natural yeasty deposit is normal.

### **The Vineyard**

The Helen's Gate Vineyard is the home of Arthur Berliner and Marian Lever. It sits on an east-facing hill along Whitehall Lane in the Rutherford District of Napa Valley. We planted the vines in 2009. The Vineyard is organically managed, with all farming done by hand (no tractors). The vines are surrounded by Marian's riotous plantings of flowers and fruit trees.