



2017 FEARLESS RED NAPA VALLEY

<i>Release Date</i>	April, 2020
<i>Production</i>	17 Barrels
<i>Appellation</i>	Napa Valley
<i>Varietal Composition</i>	58% Zinfandel, 15% Malbec, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Pinot Noir & 7% Merlot
<i>Winemaking Team</i>	Seana and Justin Hunnicutt Stephens, Proprietors Kirk P. Venge, Winemaker
<i>Cooperage</i>	Aged for 18 months in a blend of French and American Oak, 30% new
<i>Tasting Notes</i>	<p>In 2007 when we were still a very new winery, we had the opportunity to source Syrah from a friend, and while we knew the vineyard to be excellent, we had never worked with Syrah before and frankly didn't have a plan. That said, it is best to take opportunities when they are offered, so we took the plunge and then held our breath. Those familiar with the 2007 vintage will know that what we had was excellent, but also abundant! So, we took some of that plentiful Syrah and built a blend alongside Zinfandel and Petite Syrah. This was the first production of Fearless Red.</p> <p>Now ten years later 2017 brought another test. The harvest will always be defined by the fires that began in Napa on 10/8. Thankfully the winery and our team were spared from any direct damage to property and homes; however, three of our vineyard sites had yet to be picked in the affected areas, one of them being our ever-present Syrah. Once picked and fermentation began, we assessed the resulting wine and while an unfortunate loss, it was an easy decision to make to declassify and remove it from consideration, making this the first vintage of Fearless Red to not include Syrah.</p> <p>Looking past the fires, 2017 was an extremely rewarding year for winemaking. From increased rainfall in the winter to a dramatic heat spike in August, the weather brought challenges, but careful and attentive farming was rewarded with wonderful results. As this blend began to form, the loss of Syrah allowed for new creativity which resulted in Malbec & Pinot Noir playing a larger part in this year's blend.</p> <p>The Fearless Red is focused on pure enjoyment with dense, brambled red and blue fruit notes leading the way, joined subtly by hints of baking spice, white pepper and vanilla. The fine tannins are enveloped by the fruit driven palate and provide light structural cues that allow this wine to be enjoyed both on its own or with diverse pairing options.</p>
<i>Other Hunnicutt Wines</i>	HUNNICUTT 2018 Chardonnay, Sonoma Coast HUNNICUTT 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon, Rutherford AVA, <i>Brinkman Block</i>
