

2017 Pinnacle

North Coast



Varietal Composition	25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Grenache, 19% Merlot 16% Malbec, 10% Petit Verdot, 9% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	North Coast
Harvest	September and October 2017
Technical Data	ALC: 14.2% by vol.; TA: 6.4 g/L; pH: 3.55
Cooperage	100% French Oak Barrels (30% New)
Production	600 Cases

The 2017 Vintage

The 2017 vintage saw generous winter rains that refreshed ground water supplies and led to a cool, mild spring which prepared the vineyards for the summertime heat. Harvest began for Artesa on August 11 and moved quickly. A long, even summer ripening season ended with high temperatures in excess of 100 degrees for five days in early August. As a result harvest was completed for us by late September, weeks ahead of usual, and before the devastating fires that broke out on October 8. The 2017 wines show ripe, concentrated flavors and excellent balance.

About The Vineyard

The fruit for this limited release wine is sourced from multiple premier vineyards that we have had long standing relationships within both Napa and Sonoma Counties. The fruit, harvested from both high elevation mountain blocks and valley floor vineyards, is an ideal representation of the distinct and unique terroirs. The mountain fruit blends perfectly with the valley fruit to provide depth and bright fruit expression. Our goal is to present a red blend that expresses the incredible variability of terroirs in both Napa and Sonoma Counties, and its harmonious balance.

Winemaking

Hand-picked at night, so the grape clusters remain cool and intact, the fruit was promptly brought to the winery where it was de-stemmed, crushed and placed in stainless steel tanks for fermentation. During fermentation, our skilled cellar crew performed two pumpovers a day, in order to extract color and phenolics from the grape skins. The grapes were gently pressed, to grant tannins a luscious profile. The components of this red blend were fermented and aged separately, for 20 months, in French oak barrels (30% new oak), to enhance the structure and add complexity.

Tasting Notes

This wine offers intense aromas of black cherry, boysenberry and plum, with a hint of mocha and vanilla bean. On the palate, we get ripe dark fruit flavors, aided by supple tannins and a well balanced acidity. This unique profile grants the wine a smooth texture and lengthy, elegant finish.

ARTESA