



## 2013 Estate Syrah - *Donna's* *Estate Small Lot Collection - Sta. Rita Hills*

Named for Ron Melville's wife, Donna's block is planted atop twenty feet of sand in the northeast section of our vineyard and is composed of equal parts clone 1 and Estrella clone. Fermented with 100% whole clusters and aged in neutral barrel, this wine provides vividly enhanced aromatics and structure making it demonstrative of the extremely cool climate of the site on which it is grown. Fruit was fermented in small 1.5 ton open-top fermenters with total skin and stem contact averaging 30 days (a 7 day cold soak, 2+ weeks fermentation and 1+ week extended maceration). From the press, the wine was transferred directly into neutral French oak barrels where it remained sur lie with no sulfur until May and was then prepared for bottling in December. Yields were 3.4 lbs/vine (2.9 tons per acre).

**Robert Parker: 95 Points**

**Antonio Galloni: 91 Points**

***Tasting Notes:** Pure and focused aromatics of plum tart, Kalamata olive, mustard seed and horseradish are immediately apparent while spicy hints of thyme, chili powder and green peppercorn linger in the background. Nuances of dried tobacco leaf, liquid smoke, corned beef and salted caramel are noticeable on the palate along with soft floral touches of tuberose and lavender. Creamy in texture, with firm, refined tannins framing the wine's decadent and lengthy finish.*

AVA: Sta. Rita Hills

100% Syrah

Cases Produced: 288

Clones: Estrella, Clone 1

Elevage: Aged in neutral barrel (10-20 year old French oak)

Fermentation: 100% whole cluster

Alcohol: 15.5%