



### THE VINEYARDS:

The Russian River Valley is an appellation that offers vintners many blending opportunities. Hook & Ladder's oldest vineyards thrive in the cooler section of our land just west of Santa Rosa. Here the morning fog gently blankets our 100-year old vines and allows the pre-prohibition Zinfandel, Carignane and Alicante Bouschet to ripen to full maturity

### THE GROWING SEASON:

2014 was an exceptionally good year for growing grapes in the Russian River Valley. A gradual heat progression through the growing season, combined with an above average yield allowed the fruit to ripen slowly, ensuring maximum flavor development.

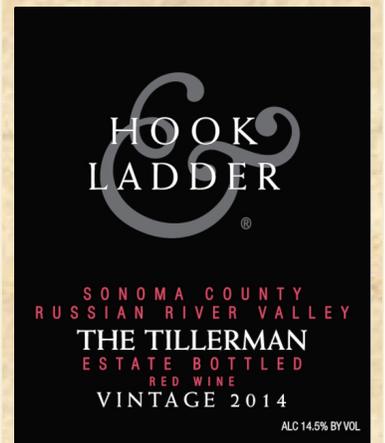
### THE WINEMAKING:

With this blend we strive for a boldly flavored, balanced, well-structured red wine. To achieve this, we evaluate various lots and varieties grown at our Los Amigos Ranch. The 2013 vintage yielded delightfully ripe, richly flavored Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Sangiovese. We added Merlot to the blend to add opulence. The must was fermented and aged separately in European and American Oak for 17 months before blending and bottling.

### THE WINE:

In fire-fighting parlance, a "tillerman" steers the back of a hook & ladder truck. Our founder, Cecil De Loach, held this position in the San Francisco Fire Department. The Tillerman red blend exhibits a deep purple and beet red hue, and notes of ripe berries, black cherry, and baking spices on the nose. Layered flavors of black currant and raspberry lead to a long finish of spice and dusty cocoa.

Hook & Ladder Winery  
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2014 "The Tillerman"  
Los Amigos Ranch  
Chalk Hill Red Blend

*BLEND*  
43% Cabernet  
Sauvignon  
22% Cabernet Franc  
11% Merlot  
24% Sangiovese

*HARVESTED* September  
16 - October 14, 2014

*ALCOHOL*  
14.7%

*TA*  
.64

*pH*  
3.45

*CASES PRODUCED* 3,874

*AGING*  
Fermented individually in  
combination of European  
and American Oak for  
over 17 months.

*ESTATE BOTTLED*  
July 15, 2015

*WINEMAKER*  
Jason De Loach