



2015 The Tillerman

CHALK HILL RED BLEND

BLEND	50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Cabernet Franc 16% Merlot, 18% Sangiovese
HARVESTED	September 9-22 2015
ALCOHOL	14.5%
TA	.67
pH	3.39
CASES	4,899
AGING	Fermented individually in combination of European and American Oak for over 17 months.
ESTATE BOTTLED	July 27, 2017



THE VINEYARD

Chalk Hill is an appellation with, generally, warmer days than in the rest of the Russian River Valley, with a variety of volcanic and alluvial soils across the western foothills of the Mayacamas range, rising 200 to 300 feet in elevation. Here, at our Los Amigos Ranch, just South of Healdsburg, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, and Sangiovese develop deep, bold flavors.

THE GROWTH

2015 was an exceptionally good year for growing grapes in the Russian River Valley. Coming into the 4th year of drought we expected lower yields but the weather cooperated with a steady temperature and a punch of heat in the end causing the fruit to ripen slowly, ensuring maximum flavor development. This was our earliest harvest to date.

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 2015 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, with notes of ripe wild 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.

