
KEPLINGER

2019 HANGMAN'S SYRAH, HUDSON VINEYARD, CARNEROS

TASTING NOTES

Hangman's block is planted with Hermitage clones of Syrah and sits up against the southern foot of the Mayacamas range. In 2019, the Syrah was co-fermented with 6% whole cluster Viognier in one small lot. After 18 days on the skins, the free run was drained to French Oak barrels for 18 months of elevage before being bottled without fining or filtration. This is the most pensive and backward of our Syrahs, and perhaps the most reminiscent of the Northern Rhone. The 2019 Hangman's sings with black pepper, black cherry, asphalt, frankincense, heady violets, tapenade, and pencil lead. The silky entry opens to a pure and lifted palate of carob, morello cherry, cigar box, and tar with toothsome tannins providing textural interest and driving the long finish. This wine will benefit from an additional 6 months of cellaring, and will drink well for 15 years and beyond.

TECHNICAL DATA

VINTNERS	Helen Keplinger and DJ Warner
WINEMAKER	Helen Keplinger
VARIETAL	94% Syrah, 6% Viognier
APPELLATION	Carneros
PRODUCTION	200 Cases
ALCOHOL	14.7%
AGING	18 months in 500L & 228L French oak barrels, 60% new oak



BACKGROUND

Helen Keplinger moved to California to attend the MS program in Enology at UC Davis. She has worked with Heidi Barrett at Paradigm in Napa Valley, Kathy Joseph at Fiddlehead in Santa Barbara, Michel Rolland, and David Abreu in Napa Valley. Since 2004, she has made wine for some exciting projects, including Cellers Melis (Priorat, Spain), Kenzo Estate, Arrow & Branch, Bryant Family Vineyards, and is currently crafting wine for Grace Family Vineyard, Carte Blanche, and Kerr Cellars.

Helen met DJ while he was managing a Spanish wine shop part time which led the two to meet over a bottle of 1995 Pago de los Capellanes, Reserva on DJ's recommendation. Helen's time in Priorat working with Grenache and finding unique singular vineyard sites for Melis was the inspiration for Keplinger wines.

In 2006, Helen founded Keplinger and the couple launched their first vintage in 2008 with a focus on small production, single-vineyard Rhone varietal wines.

Keplinger focuses on making seamlessly-crafted, terroir-driven, Rhone varietal wines from unique and diverse sites in Napa, Sonoma & Sierra Foothills. All the vineyards are hillside or mountain sites, carefully farmed by hand for small berries and concentrated flavors, in close collaboration with Helen. Each wine comes from a singular vineyard to represent the characteristics of the grape or grapes in the wine from their respective vineyard's terroir each vintage. The wines are made in small lots, with careful attention paid to every detail.