

HELIOTERRA

2016 Red Mountain Mourvèdre



Tasting Notes

Bursting with dark blueberries, fresh ground pepper, and wild Thyme. This wine is rustic, but exploding with bright acid, and soft tannins.

Vineyard

Planted and run by the Williams family, an early proponent and developer of the Red Mountain AVA, and situated halfway up the mountain's slope, this vineyard's fantastic exposure and distinct soil characteristics make for some of the best Mourvèdre grapes around. This vineyard is managed by Scott Williams.

Heart of the Hill Vineyard is located in the heart of Red Mountain, the smallest appellation in Washington State at 4,040 acres (1,630 ha planted). The area has a desert climate with average yearly rainfall of five inches per year. During the growing season, daytime temperatures average 90 °F (32 °C) with nighttime temperatures dropping below 50 °F (10 °C). Varieties from Southern France (like Mourvèdre) or Italy thrive in these hot and desert-like conditions.

Vintage

Washington vintners are calling 2016 the longest harvest they can remember. The extended season allowed their grapes to ripen slowly, with early reports indicating an excellent vintage.

A perfect storm of growing conditions led to larger berries and clusters in some varieties. The harvest came in as much as 30% above expected numbers, even after extensive thinning. Hanging larger amounts of fruit is not necessarily a bad thing, especially in a warm vintage, but then 2016 took a turn. Conditions from mid-September until the end of harvest cooled down considerably, and there was intermittent rain—a rarity in ever-dry eastern Washington.

Our growers were diligent and the results are sublime.

Technical

Varietal: 100% Mourvèdre

PH: 3.59

Alcohol: 13.8%

Cases Produced: 190