

CHALONE VINEYARD

“Chalone isn’t a label; it’s a place on earth.” The wines speak to the limestone and decomposed granite soils that are specific to this wild, isolated mountain plateau in Monterey County. The low-nutrient soils make the vines struggle and give the wines unique minerality; the diurnal temperature swings and cool winds retain acidity; the intense sunshine builds flavors and tannin structure; and the age of our vines enhances the wines’ concentration, complexity and ageability.

2016 ESTATE SYRAH

VINEYARD

Our Syrah vineyards make up 18 acres on the Chalone estate. These acres are divided into three sections: Tower, Strip and Macwood Vineyard, and the vines are grafted to three different Syrah clones for flavor complexity. The Australian Shiraz clone brings the Old World character: earthy spice, black tar, white pepper and deep fruit. The northern Rhône Syrah clone is bright and fruit-driven. The third clone’s character is between the Rhône and Shiraz clones, making the blend reminiscent of both wine regions, yet shaped by the terroir of Chalone.

VINTAGE

After several years of drought, the 2016 vintage started out with an average amount of rainfall (about 13 inches) in winter. Weather remained cooperative throughout budbreak and bloom resulting in a good set and even ripening. Ample sunshine during the summer months delivered ideal grapes full of flavor. We harvested the fruit for this wine from August 31 – September 6, 2016.

WINE

This 2016 Syrah is a dark inky to purple hue with captivating aromas of blackberry, plum and spice. The palate echoes the aroma, with evolving flavors of black cherry, MacWood Block. The flavors make way to a peppery spice that mingles with structured tannins and a hint of oak. This Syrah is an ideal pairing for a penne pasta tossed with sausage, broccoli rabe and cream.

WINE DATA

VARIETAL COMPOSITION:	100% Syrah
BARREL AGING:	15 months of barrel aging. Fermentation in French oak barrels, 50% new
APPELLATION:	Chalone AVA
ALCOHOL:	14.5%
ACIDITY:	6.0 g/L
PH:	3.6
CASE PRODUCTION:	119

