



HILL FAMILY
E S T A T E



2005 “Clarke Vineyard” Syrah

Production: 120 cases

Composition: 100% Syrah

Vineyard: Clarke

Appellation: Carneros

Elevation: Valley Floor

Vine age: 12 years

Cooperage: 25 % new French oak (Radoux, Appalachian, and Francois Freres barrels) and the rest in neutral French oak.

Alcohol: 15.3%, TA 0.62, pH 3.45

The Clarke vineyard is down almost in American Canyon on the rolling eastern hills with strong afternoon winds. The only real way to ripen Syrah in this area is to wait for shrivel to concentrate the grapes down to one third to one half of their original size. By this time, most of the leaves were red and purple or gone all together. Both the 877 (about 66%) and the 383 (34%) clones were used.

Winemaker Alison Doran’s Tasting notes:

Aroma: Smells like a blackberry Danish – buttery pastry, cream cheese and blackberry jam.

Palate: Huge cocoa cream palate, very big and broad with black raspberry flavors. Though chewy, it is still drinkable with a persistent vanilla spice finish.