William Chris
VINEYARDS

2017 ARTIST BLEND

TEXAS HIGH PLAINS



50% Mourvèdre
Vineyards: Farmhouse, Bingham, La Pradera, Narra

25% Syrah
Vineyards: Alta Loma, High Cross, Westcave

19% Grenache
Vineyard: Lahey

6% Tannat
Vineyard: Narra

Since the first vintage of Artist Blend, we have chosen to honor the parallels between the visual arts and the art of winemaking. The first Artist Blend label bore a painting by William Blackmon and his sister, Carol's mother, Mary Ruth. In 2013, we opened the competition to submissions from the public. After a month-long submission period in October, finalists are chosen by a panel of judges, and the eventual winner is chosen by our Hye Society Wine Club members during our November Release Parties.

The 2018 contest winner was Brad Settles' "Finch," a Linocut Imprint, which is now featured on every bottle of our 2017 Artist Blend. "I chose "Finch" for a variety of reasons. I wanted a black and white [piece] ... and a tie in with nature...birds, vines, and the ground," Settles added.

Settles' artwork adorns our Texas version of a Grenache-Syrah-Mourvedre blend, traditionally seen in the Rhone Valley of Southern France. Our winemakers added a touch of Tannat to put our own Texas twist on the wine and round out the palate.

VINTAGE

The 2017 vintage will probably go down as the best vintage of the decade. Plenty of dry, warm, sunny days and cool nights resulted in a textbook-perfect growing season.

WINEMAKING

After harvest, the wines were vinified in individual lots, blended, and then aged for 18 months in 20% new French and Eastern European oak.

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