



# *Girard*

## 2017 MIXED BLACKS NAPA VALLEY

### VINTAGE NOTES

The 2017 growing season was a bit of a roller-coaster with heavy winter rains leading to vigorous vine growth in spring. Bloom came early, in parallel with an eclectic range of springtime temperatures. Moderate early summer temperatures gave way to several heat waves throughout the summer and into fall, heightening the rate of ripening and flavor development in the grapes, and ushering in a slightly early harvest.

### VINEYARD NOTES

This fruit was sourced from the Godward Vineyard in Calistoga from century old head-pruned vines. Inter-planted varietals from the turn of the century make this a nod to California's wine growing heritage and the field blends it first produced.

### TASTING NOTES

The aromatics are laden with heady blackberry, cassis and red licorice. The palate showcases ripe fruit flavors reminiscent of blood orange, pomegranate and blackberry cobbler. Typical of this vineyard, the fruit character is bold but balanced by bright acidity. The finish is lengthy across the palate with smooth tannins and refined oak integration.

### ABOUT THIS WINE

The Mixed Blacks vineyard, planted in Calistoga over 100 years ago, is an homage to California's winegrowing heritage. When immigrants first settled here, they brought with them vine cuttings from their villages and planted what would later become known as "field blends". These unique vineyards produced wines that were shared among family, traded with neighbors and offer a nod to the farmers who settled in wine country.

**VARIETAL COMPOSITION** Field Blend believed to include Zinfandel, Petite Sirah, Syrah, Grenache, and Mourvèdre

**APPELLATION** Napa Valley | **AGING** Matured in Fusion barrels comprised of French, American and Hungarian oak, 45% new

**ALCOHOL** 15% | **TA** 6 g/L | **pH** 3.61 | **PRODUCTION** 950 cases