LARNER 2017 SYRAH/GRENACHE

Varietals: 55% Syrah, 45% Grenache

Appellation: Ballard Canyon

Vineyard: Larner

Production: 252 cases made

Oak: 80% New French Oak

Time in Barrel: 24 months

Alcohol: 15.7 %

Cellar potential: 8+ years

Release date: September 14, 2019

TASTING NOTES

You're required to wear at least a Speedo at the Polar Bear Plunge, but screw the rules because when you do something, you do it 100%. Before the volunteer workers can say a thing you're off, bounding bare legs in the water. Next thing you remember is a tattoo-sleeved, swim-capped army vet helping you to the lodge, grunting the whole way. He points you to the down blankets, marzipan cake and blackberry tea, a crackling fire. Without a word, he's back out for round two, backstroking in the frigid water. You might be naked, but that guy came to play.

NOTES

Larner Vineyard was winemaker Russell P. From's first fruit contract for Herman Story back in 2001 and over a decade later he is still working with the same block, same rows, same clones. Named by Robert Parker as a potential Grand Cru site, Larner Vineyard consistently produces Syrah and Grenache of singular character.

SERVING Temperature: 65°F Decant: 1+ hour

ABOUT

Proprietor and winemaker Russell P. From began Herman Story Wines in 2001 with 7 barrels stashed in his employer's cellar. What started as a modest homage to his rancher grandfather has become a beacon to those seeking opulent, structured Syrah and Grenache. To maintain balance while giving flavor full stage, Russell works with 30 top-tier vineyards in over 7 distinct growing regions between Santa Barbara and Paso Robles. Vineyards of particular note include: Bien Nacido, Slide Hill, Larner, Shadow Canyon, Chelle Mountain, Luna Matta and White Hawk. These are no nonsense, balls to the walls wines that are not for the faint of heart or the pinky raising set.



