

# CASUAL ENCOUNTERS

## 2017 SMGCT

**Varietals:**

40% Syrah, 35% Mourvèdre,  
19% Grenache, 4% Carignan,  
2% Tannat

**Appellation:**

California

**Vineyards:**

Chelle Mountain, Luna Matta,  
Paderewski, White Cliffs,  
Bien Nacido, Jespersen

**Vinification:**

18% Whole Cluster

**Production:**

612 cases made

**Oak:**

70% New French Oak

**Time in Barrel:**

24 months

**Alcohol:**

15.6 %

**Cellar potential:**

6-8 years

**Release date:**

September 14, 2019

**TASTING NOTES**

You never thought you'd get this far, but the wood-paneled bar with neon-lit signs has dissolved into your apartment balcony, where she's hungry and waiting. Frying up a grilled cheese in the kitchen you realize you're not kids anymore, so you're trying to channel your inner Thomas Keller, chopping fresh rosemary and sage, sizzling bacon, spreading pepper jelly. She hand-rolls a cigarette as you split the sandwich. Miles away, thunder rolls. The air turns earthy and sweet. Let it fill the space between you until the rain begins.

**NOTES**

Casual Encounters takes its name from the orgiastic nature of its origins as a blend of small cofermented lots. By giving up control and embracing game-day decisions during harvest, Casual Encounters best captures the lengths Russell will go in setting orthodoxy aside and letting flavor take full stage.

**SERVING**

Temperature: 65°F

Decant: 45 minutes

**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.

**HERMAN  
STORY**

**CONTACT**

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