



Hyde de Villaine

Rooted in California's rich cultural history, Californio Syrah pays homage to the Spanish pioneers who shaped the region while embracing the modern artistry of Napa Valley winemaking.



98
vincus



Alcohol :13,90 %

Composition: 100% Syrah

Californio Syrah 2018

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

Californio Syrah 2018 is sourced from the **Hyde Vineyard**, located at the eastern edge of the **Los Carneros AVA** in Napa Valley. Known for its cool-climate conditions, Carneros benefits from **marine influences** that moderate temperatures, promoting a long growing season with excellent flavor development.

The vineyard's **Haire clay loam soils**, layered with ancient terraces and alluvial fans, provide excellent drainage and nutrient balance. This 2.1-acre block of Syrah, with vines aged between **18 and 24 years**, is carefully managed to produce low yields of high-quality fruit. The site's **southeast exposure** ensures optimal sunlight for ripening while preserving the natural acidity of the grapes.

Winemaking

Californio Syrah 2018 is crafted from **100% Syrah**, harvested on **October 3 and 5, 2018**. The vintage benefited from a mild growing season with warm days and cool nights, allowing the fruit to develop complexity and balance.

The wine underwent barrel aging for **16 months in French oak barrels**, with **20% new oak** to enhance its structure and aromatic profile. Bottled **unfined and unfiltered** on **February 14, 2020**, the wine retains its natural texture and purity, with an alcohol level of **13.9%**.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep garnet with purple hues.
- **Aroma:** Rich aromas of plum and blueberry framed by notes of black pepper, iron, and rosemary.
- **Palate:** Fine-grained tannins deliver flavors of smoked meat, fennel seed, and Mission fig, complemented by hints of Japanese plum candy and sweet lavender.
- **Finish:** Long and structured, with a balance of masculine, savory tones and refined floral sweetness.



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Did you know?

The name **Californio** honors the early Spanish settlers of California, known as **Californios**, who shaped the region's cultural and agricultural legacy. Hyde de Villaine's roots trace back to these pioneers, blending history and viticulture in this remarkable Syrah.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Braised short ribs with rosemary and garlic:** The savory richness and herbal notes of the dish echo the wine's smoky, peppery complexity.
- **Grilled lamb chops with fennel and thyme:** The wine's herbal and meat-driven flavors harmonize beautifully with the lamb's earthy, aromatic profile.
- **Duck breast with fig reduction:** The wine's fig and plum notes complement the sweetness and richness of the duck.
- **Charcuterie with aged Manchego and smoked meats:** The Syrah's savory and floral layers balance the bold flavors of cured meats and nutty cheeses.



Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 98 Points (2018)

The 2018 Syrah Californio Hyde Vineyard is dark and explosive in the glass. Ripe red cherry, plum, chocolate, leather and licorice open first, followed by more typical Syrah notes of black pepper, game, tobacco, incense and leather that add a striking upper register. The 2018 was done entirely with destemmed fruit, yet it has plenty of savory energy. I must admit, I am generally not the biggest fan of Syrahs from Hyde, but the 2018 is a flat-out stunner. (AG)



Robert Parker (RP) : 96 Points (2018)

The 2018 Syrah Californio, aged 15-16 months in 20% new French oak, is fragrant and seamless. Blackcurrants, plums and blueberries are accented by touches of violet, coffee bean, potting soil and cast iron on the nose. The medium-bodied palate is granular and lifted, with ringing violet perfume and a very long, layered finish. It's stunning straight from bottle (and highly drinkable at just 13.9% alcohol), but it offers the concentration and freshness to develop savory complexity in the cellar over the next decade or more.



James Suckling (JS) : 94 Points (2017)

Meat and spice with some pepper and fresh herbs. Tea leaf and tobacco, too. Attractive dark fruit. Raspberries, some blackberries and orange zest. Medium-to full-bodied with round, tight tannins and a fine finish. Shows pretty texture. I like the firmness and spiciness.

