



## 2019 Murray Syrah Red Mountain AVA

Syrah 83%, Grenache 12%, Viognier 5%  
J. Hightower "Mother Block" Vineyard -100%

### Oak Program

- Neutral 100%,
- American 50%, French 38%, Hungarian 12%
- Aged in small (59 gallon) barrels

### Harvest Dates

- Syrah and Viognier – Sept. 20, 2019
- Grenache – Sept. 23, 2019

### Growing Season

2019 was cooler than recent vintages, though still hotter than the 20-year average. Uncharacteristically, we had snow in the vineyards into March, which delayed both pruning and budbreak. Summer temperatures were cooler and more even than recent years. The lack of heat spikes led to more consistent ripening, allowing the phenolics to mature earlier than normal. For a warm AVA like Red Mountain this led to a beautiful balance of phenolics ripeness and acid, which is something we are always striving for here at Hightower Cellars.

### Production Methods

Handpicked, crushed, and destemmed directly into square open top fermenters. We do not use a must pump; this helps tame the tannins. The ferments are hand punched down. Co-fermented with Viognier. We press directly into barrel where it where it ages sur lee and completes malolactic fermentation.

We bottled 195 cases