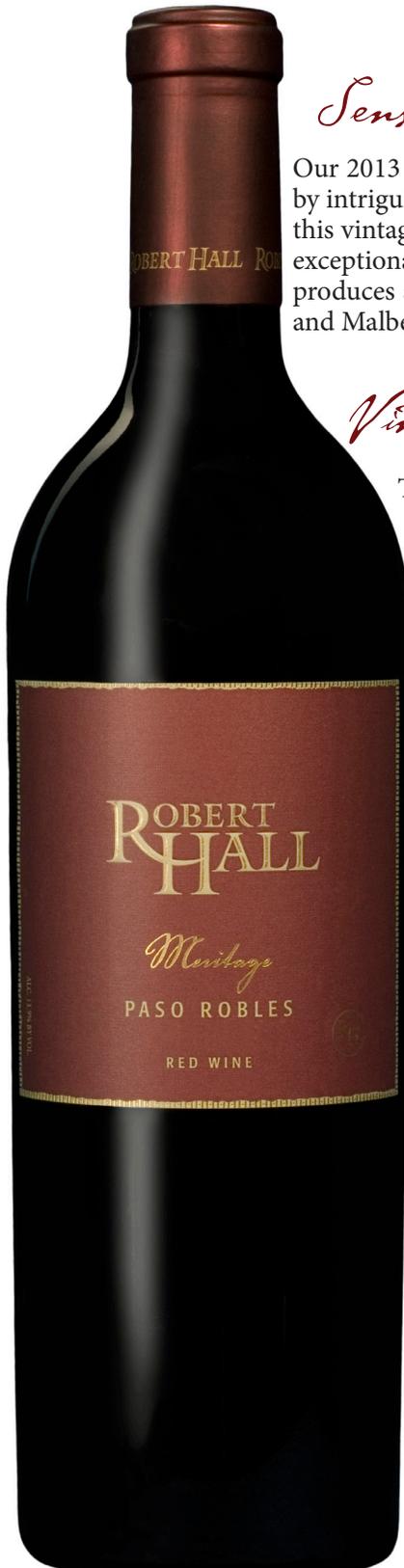


# 2013 Meritage

## Paso Robles



### *Sensory Notes*

Our 2013 Meritage presents elegant aromas of black currant, cassis and ripe plum, complemented by intriguing earthy notes and cedar. The color is deep ruby red, dense, and reflects the intensity of this vintage, the vineyard, and the careful selection of our finest lots. On the palate the wine shows exceptional depth of flavor with firm but velvety tannins. The classic blend of four noble grapes produces a wine of finesse and character featuring our Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petite Verdot and Malbec.

### *Vintage Notes*

The 2013 vintage was a challenging season in Paso Robles. We began our spring with marginal moisture, the product of non-existent winter rains. This daunting start was followed by a gentle spring with mild temperatures through April and May that gave us a great start to the growing season. The cool temperatures and seasonable conditions gave us excellent flowering and fruit set circumstances that resulted in a normal cluster count. From here our temperatures climbed, giving us one big heat spike in July before moderating to normal temperatures to finish the summer. Crop water and vine growth were managed by careful timing of irrigation. Very little thinning of the crop was required because the lack of winter rain kept the berry size in check. Following summer we moved into a vigorous harvest season that presented perfect conditions for excellent ripening at a brisk rate resulting in amazing depth of color and wonderful flavor maturity.

### *Winemaker's Notes*

Our 2013 Meritage was produced from hand-harvested grapes picked in early-October. Following harvest the grapes were crushed to small tanks and inoculated for fermentation. Fermentation and maceration lasted 10 days and was assisted by traditional hand pump-over to maximize color and flavor release. Subsequent to fermentation the wine was drawn off and the skins were pressed. After a short settling period the wine was racked into French oak barrels where it completed malolactic fermentation and matured for 18 months. Prior to bottling the wine received a final racking to stainless steel where the blend was assembled and the wine prepared for bottling.

### *Wine Facts*

Blend: 40% Cabernet  
Sauvignon  
39% Merlot  
20% Petit Verdot  
1% Malbec

Total acidity: 6.00 g/L  
pH: 3.60  
Alcohol: 14.5%  
Bottled: August 2015