



## 2017 ESTATE MOUNTAIN CUVÉE

**Harvest:** September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Vineyard Block:** Old Vineyard

**Planted:** 2005

**Aspect:** Steep east-facing slopes

**Soil:** chunky Hugo Loam

**Rootstock:** St. George

**Clone:** St. Peter's Church

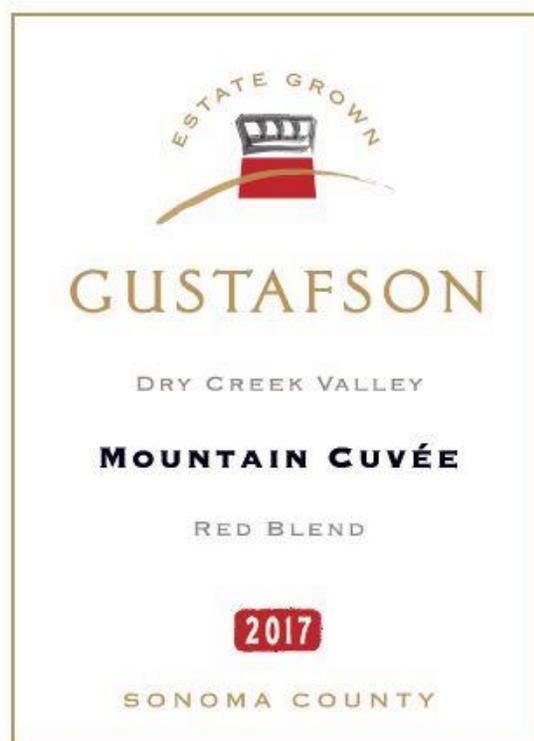
**Blend:** 72.5% Zinfandel, 2.5% Syrah &  
~20% Petite Sirah (co-fermented)

**Aging:** 16 Months French & American Oak,  
25% New

**Alcohol:** 13.8%

**Total Production:** 621 Cases

**Release Date:** Spring 2019



Vintage Notes: The 2017 vintage will be most remembered for a return of soaking winter rains to much of the Golden State. The wet, cold (for California!) and lengthy winter saw an accumulation of 109.4 inches of rain fall on our tiny corner of Sonoma County. Our vines enjoyed the cool immersion and slumbered into early spring, with the first new buds popping on March 12th. The growing season was marked by a cool spring and early summer that quickly gave way to one of the hottest Augusts on record. The late season heat spike push sugars forward and created a scramble to get grapes off the vine. A hurried harvest followed as most of our estate fruit was harvested in early September, nearly 3 weeks earlier than average. The wines of the 2017 vintage are fully ripe and will serve as a testament to the power and structure of California winegrowing.

Winemaking Notes: After surviving the late August heat wave, the grapes in our lower zinfandel block stayed on the vine an additional three weeks. The extra hang-time allowed for the development of rich red fruit notes to complement the tannic broadside of the co-fermented Petite Sirah. The co-fermentation allows for early mingling and favor cohesion between the two varietals. The resulting wine is aged on 25% new French oak for 16 months. This light addition of oak allows for the bright cherry notes of the zinfandel to shine, while providing additional depth to the lingering finish.

Tasting Notes: The 2017 Mountain Cuvée is continuously a delightful wine, a blend consisting of Zinfandel, Petite Sirah and Syrah grapes, our cuvée is always a crowd pleaser. The aroma boasts clear notes of juicy cherry and strawberry followed by a surprising savory note of sage, sweet tobacco and a hint of caramel. The palate opens with similar notes of rich red fruits, sweet & savory plum sauce, complimented by a smokey flavor reminiscent of your favorite foods straight off the barbecue. Beautifully balanced with a smooth, lingering finish, enjoy our Mountain Cuvée with your favorite pizza or anything off the grill.