

## 2018 SAVANT

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*A bold and complex  
blend with superb  
balance*

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**Varietal Composition:**

64% Syrah, 35% Cabernet  
Sauvignon, 1% Merlot

**Appellation:**

Paso Robles

**Bottling Data:**

pH: 3.68

Total Acidity: 0.71g/100mL

Alcohol: 16.1% by volume

### Philosophy

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A unique blend that combines the distinctive characteristics of Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon, the two most highly regarded red grape varieties grown in Paso Robles. The 2018 SAVANT exhibits the depth and complexity that Paso is famous for, while still displaying the elegant, food friendly JUSTIN style. Rich, with full ripe black fruit, spice and smoky meaty elements, it's a wine that lovers of bold wines will love, while still being classy enough to display exquisite table manners, pairing well with a wide variety of food.

### Vintage Notes

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The 2018 vintage started with a cool winter with only 60% of normal precipitation, most of it occurring from late February through March. Bud break began in mid to late March. May and June alternated between warm and cool temperatures during flowering, including a few windy days that naturally reduced our yields a bit. The warm weather began in June and it was hot from mid-June through the end of July with veraison starting in the last week of July. High heat continued until mid-August causing the vines to shut down slightly, delaying ripeness and maturity, but a cooling trend later in August got things back on track. The characteristic Paso warm days and cold nights in September with the help of our calcareous soils retained natural acidity in the fruit while we waited for full ripeness and maturity. The rains stayed away through October allowing us to harvest our syrah and cabernet sauvignon blocks with great balance of flavor and structure.

### Vinification

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**Fermentation:** Stainless steel closed top tanks with UV43 yeast, twice daily pump overs.

**Maturation:** Barrel aged for 21 months in 100% French oak (52% new)

### Tasting Notes by Jim Gerakaris, CWE - JUSTIN Winery Sommelier

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**Appearance:** Bright, deep purple, ruby core with a lighter rim and slow forming, thick, moderately stained tears.

**Aroma:** Very Aromatic with black fruit of cherry, berry and blackcurrant, smoke, cracked pepper, vanilla, oak, leather and sweet tobacco.

**Palate:** Full bodied and textured, with ripe black mixed with red fruit on entry with baking spice and oak. Savory leather, black pepper and smoky autumn leaves join on the mid-palate with full, grippy tannins that lead the way into a long, balanced finish with sustained cherry and berry fruit, cured meat and subtle camphor notes. This is a bold wine that combines ripe fruit with full textures and balances nicely on the palate making it a great pairing for full flavored foods like BBQ, Venison, or roasted leg of lamb.