



Platinum Plus!

Hill Family Estate | 2018 'Like a Hawk' Red Blend Napa Valley

The word 'family' in a winery name can have different connotations. Some utilize the name for marketing purposes and some to denote tradition regarding the winery. At Hill Family Estate, the term 'family' means that all aspects of the word are meticulously formed and integrated into the daily routine of the business.

"We are actually a fourth-generation of the Hill Family," pointed out Ryan Hill, one of the owners and the director of sales for the winery. "My great-grandfather grew apricots around San Jose and my grandfather grew prunes and apples. My dad, Doug, has grown exceptional grapes for almost four decades and my sister Carly and I are the fourth generation in the agribusiness."

Doug Hill started everything wine-wise back in 1977 when he acquired his first vineyards. Since then, eleven different vineyard locations have been added to the Hill Family portfolio, mostly in Napa Valley and its environs. For nearly four decades, the fruit was sold to the likes of Far Niente Winery, Silver Oak Cellars, Duckhorn Vineyards, Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, Caymus Vineyards, Cakebread Cellars and a host of other winery luminaries. His grapes were considered among the finest grown in the prestigious Napa Valley. Hill Family Estate's vineyards now encompass 120 acres and enjoy numerous significant sub-appellations within Napa Valley.

Sometime after the turn of the century, Ryan and Carly Hill approached their father with an adventuresome idea. "We realized we were not farmers like our parents," Ryan Hill explained. "Dad never wanted to be a vintner, but we kids both enjoyed the aspect of having our own winery with our family name on it. Our family had sold our marvelous fruit to the greatest Napa wineries and we knew we could do well if given the opportunity."

Doug and Darci Hill endorsed their children's aspirations and in 2001 the first fruit that would become Hill Family Estate was processed. A total of around 980 cases were produced and released in 2004.

The new winery was immediately acclaimed and vaulted into national prominence. Awards and industry plaudits accumulated in little time and the winery was well on its way.

Future goals for Hill Family Estate include acquiring more vineyard rights and making their wines more 'worldly' - the family would like to see Hill Family Estate become a household name and a force to be reckoned with in the wine industry. The winery is already ensconced among Napa Valley's elite wineries, and seems destined for even greater honors and acclaims. If drive and determination are deciding factors, Ryan Hill and Hill Family Estate don't seem to have too far to go. Please enjoy this *Platinum Plus! Wine Club* feature.



Accolades & Tasting Notes

90 POINTS -Robert Parker's *The Wine Advocate*

A blend of 52% Syrah, 29% Malbec, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Merlot, the 2018 'Like a Hawk' Red Blend is a big elegant yet energetic wine with huge color and density. On the nose, aromas of cherry vanilla, black fig and blueberry seamlessly blend while the palate has a big mouthfeel of hazelnut and blueberry flavors with a surprisingly gentle texture for its size and weight. The finish is savory and tasty, with mocha and chocolate lingering. A photograph of Landon Hill, Ryan's son and the fifth generation of Hill family farmers, is proudly displayed on the wine's front label. Aged 16 months in oak. Enjoy!



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