



## 2018 CHECKERBOARD COYOTE RIDGE VINEYARD

MARTHA MCCLELLAN, WINEMAKER

Coyote Ridge Vineyard is located on a long undulating ridgeline that runs eastward and downhill from the Aurora Vineyard knoll. The vineyard blocks are perched on the hillside above Nash Creek Canyon to the south and share the same red iron oxide clay as the upper blocks of Aurora Vineyard. Though the soils are similar, the south and slightly eastern exposure of Coyote Ridge, along with its lower 900 foot elevation, allows the top of the summer fog line to reach the Vineyard. This creates an entirely different microclimate and growing cycle for its vines.

2018 Checkerboard Coyote Ridge is a very showy vintage. Let's skip the descriptors and talk first about the finely polished tannins. Oooh-la-la. The tannins, combined with a texture reminiscent of the softest silk, makes it highly approachable. The wine's weighty, powerfully structured palate of macerated red berries, dark plums, caramel, savory herbs, and red spice is irresistible. Each berry that became a component of 2018 Checkerboard Coyote Ridge was hand-selected on our sorting table.

In its youth, the 2018 vintage of Checkerboard Coyote Ridge benefits from a brief decant prior to serving.