



THE HESS COLLECTION
MOUNT VEEDER / NAPA VALLEY



2014 | LION TAMER, RED BLEND

THE HESS COLLECTION WINES FROM NAPA VALLEY

Though just 30 miles long and a few miles wide, Napa Valley is home to diverse microclimates and soils uniquely suited to wine grape growing. It is considered one of the premier wine regions in the world and for our Napa Valley wines we look to our estate vineyards and select growers throughout the valley to source the very best wine grapes. The Hess Collection wines are family owned, sustainably farmed and dedicated to reflecting a true sense of place. Our wines are recognizable for their elegant, rich and complex flavors and a tradition of excellence.

NAPA VALLEY LION TAMER RED BLEND

The lion has been the emblem of the Hess Family for nine generations. It has come to symbolize the bold and persevering nature of founder Donald Hess and our winery home on Mount Veeder. The Hess Collection has long been known for its big, bold, mountain Cabernets and a little Malbec finds its way into many of our blends. The name “Lion Tamer” has become a nickname for Malbec because we use it as our tannin tamer. Much like a Lion Tamer who uses a deft hand to soothe powerful, instinctive animals, Winemaker Dave Guffy uses Malbec to soothe the powerful tannins. This red blend brings all the roar of Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon and Petite Sirah, and when blended with Malbec, produces a big, lush wine that finishes with smooth and tamed round tannins.

- BLEND:** 55% Malbec, 15% Zinfandel, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Petite Sirah, 8% Merlot
- ALCOHOL:** 14.8%
- PH:** 3.72
- TA:** 0.63 gms/100ml
- COOPERAGE:** Aged in 80% new French oak barrels for 20 months
- HARVESTED:** Sept 15 - Oct 18, 2014
- RELEASED:** Sept 2016

TASTE WITH THE WINEMAKER

“We affectionately call this wine “Tamer” because blending Lion Tamer is both challenging and rewarding especially when you start with Malbec as the core. Malbec on its own brings heady, floral aromas of violets and can be what I call the wild child. Big, bold and juicy upon entry, Malbec is virtually loaded with flavor. When you layer in Zinfandel, Petite Sirah and Cabernet Sauvignon, you get complex layers of blackberries, milk chocolate, black plums and exotic perfume that carry throughout a plush texture and a ripe juicy core of black fruits. The signature of Lion Tamer is a generous palate of black raspberry and surprisingly lush tannins.”

– Dave Guffy, Director of Winemaking

VINTAGE NOTES

The harvest of 2014 will be forever remembered for being blindingly fast. Many claim it was over in the blink of an eye...it wasn't just fast, it also started early (some grapes were at the winery in late August), meaning our crews spent Thanksgiving at home with their families, not a bad trade-off for some long days keeping up with the crush of grapes arriving at the winery. Fast is one thing, of course, but the real focus is always on flavor, and once again, as has been the case for recent vintages, the fruit in 2014 was simply spectacular – it is a vintage that is memorable on every measure: fast, ripe and furiously top quality.

CASES PRODUCED: 2,729 (9L) cases | **SRP:** \$40

