

twain: /twān/

From the Old English *twegen*, meaning two.

The line that whispers through your thoughts is from Rudyard Kipling's *The Ballad of East and West*: "Oh, East is East, and West is West, and ne'er the twain shall meet."

In *twain* I indulged myself with an ocean of allegory. If Hope Well is my attempt to build a totem for those who see a way to work differently, then the wines themselves are the lore, the stories we tell and the songs we sing to invoke the spirit of the totem.

In *The Ballad of East and West* the unlikeliest duo, an English officer and an Afghan horse thief become comrades in discovering that they share a moral code based on honor, bravery, and courtesy. *Twain* brings together the viticultural equivalent of polar opposite personalities. Riesling, precise, revered for its aromatic potential, its acidity, its capacity to know its place. Chardonnay, ubiquitous and mutable, made in every corner of the world to bend to site or to winemaker whim. How could they possibly find harmony? Is it heresy?

On the picking day there was no hesitation. Why not look through the kaleidoscope of Hope Well at everything that both varieties bring to the table and let them spin a tale? Into the press, together, into the barrels, together, and there the twain were joined as though they were born under the same star.

What is bright in one is made brighter by the other. What can be heavy in one is made light, and vice versa. At Hope Well, when we see a wall, we want to break it down. We hope you feel that way too.

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Hope Well 2018 *twain* Eola-Amity Hills

Harvested October 4 and 5, 2018

50% Chardonnay, 50% Riesling

100% organically farmed

Whole cluster pressed

No commercial yeasts or bacteria were used.

100% neutral french oak

Alcohol 13.7%, pH 3.2, TA 5.5 g/L

113 cases bottled July 23, 2019

2018 began warm and the tiresome words of drought, fire, and heat dominated the talk of the growing season. The only balm to the abrading effects inherent to the acceleration of climate change is redoubling the effort to build the alternative way forward. Every year that passes we see more resilience in the land, we study success and celebrate it, but never allow that to dampen the urgency of this work.

As warm as it began, we were granted reprieve by reliably cool nights, and while the drought persisted, the ongoing improvements in soil water retention due to years of increasing diversity and feeding soil were appreciated by all the life at Hope Well.

Managing to make it through another drought year with the power to cross the finish line with nuance and finesse felt very gratifying. The beauty of October brought many moments of gratitude-guided work as we laid the farm to rest.

Human. Nature. Hope Well