


BYRON
BLATTY
LOS ANGELES

2016 Pragmatic, Los Angeles County

When your intention is to add small amounts of Malbec into other blends, but that Malbec is so expressive, so striking, and so dominant that it overpowers everything that it comes in contact with, there is only one thing to do: Give that Malbec its own wine. This is Pragmatic.

Vintage Notes

California had yet another drought year in 2016, resulting in grape yields remaining low, but high-quality. Southern California, and the Antelope Valley in northern Los Angeles County, was particularly dry, but with steady temperatures and few heat spikes. Cool nights in the AV allowed the grapes to reach full maturity, and develop concentrated flavors.

Winegrowing & Production Notes

This single vineyard blend from Smith Family Vineyards is a combination of 90% Malbec, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 5% Merlot. The vineyard lies in Antelope Acres, on the north end of the Antelope Valley. At 2,500 ft. elevation, the cold nights and late afternoon breezes keep the vineyard cool, and allow the skins to thicken on the small, concentrated clusters of Malbec. All of the fruit was hand-picked, crushed, and cold soaked for at least 36 hours before fermenting in open-top bins. Punch downs were performed multiple times per day, before the wine was gently pressed. The wine was aged on the lees for 5 months, then raked into 75% new French oak barrels, where it rested for a total of 22 months.

Technical Notes

Vintage:	2016
Varietal(s):	90% Malbec, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot
Appellation:	Los Angeles County
Vineyard Designation:	Smith Family Vineyards
Harvest Date(s):	September 9 th , 2016 / September 14 th , 2016
Titrateable Acidity:	.795
pH:	3.60
Aging:	22 months in French oak, 75% new
Fermentation:	open top bins
Bottling Date:	June 23 rd , 2018
Alcohol:	14.8%
Production:	80 cases
Retail:	\$58.00 / bottle – 750ml



Tasting Notes

A complex mixture of strawberry jam, raspberry compote, blackberries and boysenberry syrup announce themselves immediately on the nose, accented by wet rock and purple flowers, with a hint of pine needles and tea. It is deeply concentrated in the glass, and on the palate, as the extravagant fruit core of blackberry and bramble asserts itself. Ripe tannins and balanced acidity pull their way through the long, structured finish.