

BETZ

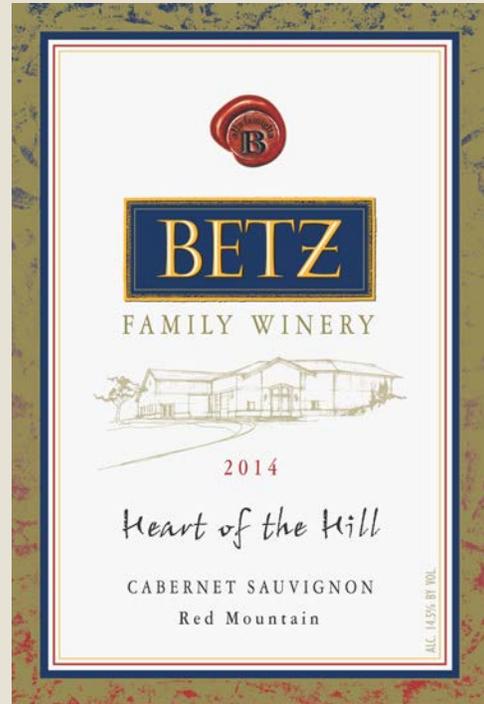
FAMILY WINERY

2014 *Heart of the Hill*, 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

In our quest to better understand Columbia Valley vineyards, over the past 20 vintages we've harvested fruit from the far west end of the Yakima Valley to the Rocks of Walla Walla. It's always enlightening to see the variations in wine expression based on the grapes' origins and to correlate those to the numerous differences between growing sites. It's the rare vineyard that melds unmistakable character with extraordinary quality, expressing that single site character in a superb wine. Our search in Washington has led us to what we think is just such a marriage: *Heart of the Hill* Cabernet Sauvignon, the newest entry to our portfolio, created from a single site, single variety on Red Mountain. While we've farmed Cabernet Sauvignon from Red Mountain vineyards since 1997, the performance of Cabernet Sauvignon from this discreet, small section of the appellation creates wines that we've not seen from other Red Mountain sites, even other nearby Cabernet blocks. (Lovers of French wine jargon will recognize the nebulous terms "lieu dit" or "climat" for this special marriage.) Our pursuit finally takes shape with the 2014 Heart of the Hill Cabernet Sauvignon.

This journey has been in the works for a decade: Scott Williams of Kiona Vineyard, with whom we have worked since 1999, planted the first Cabernet vines at Heart of the Hill in 2006, with additional vines added each season afterwards. We've used the grapes in our Pere de Famille blend since 2010, and it formed the foundation of the stellar 2012 Le Parrain.

Why is this site so unique? We're not quite sure! It shares certain physical traits (heat accumulation, high light intensity, low rainfall and cool nighttime temperatures near harvest) with other acclaimed vineyards midway up Red Mountain. It slopes gently due south, sandwiched roughly between Ciel du Cheval, Col Solare and Hedges Estate vineyards, with weak/high calcium soils and a little less wind than vineyards farther down the slope. But there's a je ne sais quoi here that results in wines with character unlike anything we've had in our cellar before. Give us another 50 vintages and we will answer the question "why"!



Current Rating, Barrel Score: Robert Parker's Wine Advocate – (95-98) Points "The first vintage for this cuvee, which in the past comprised a large portion of the Parrain cuvee, the 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Heart of the Hill comes from a small parcel of loam, sand and gravelly soils in the Kiona vineyard. It's 100% Cabernet Sauvignon and is comprised from two clones, clone 8 and clone 2. It's raised all in new French oak. A big, seriously structured and tannic beauty, it tastes like the essence of Red Mountain with its scorched earth, black currants, cassis, licorice and charcoal-like minerality. Rich, full-bodied, fabulously concentrated and with building tannin on the finish, I'm sure it will be slightly more approachable on release, yet it will need a decade of cellaring and keep through 2044." – Jeb Dunnuck

Blending Detail:

- 100% Cabernet Sauvignon- Heart of the Hill, Kiona Vineyards

Aging Profile:

- Serve cool: 60-62°F
- Drink 2017-2027

