

# 2018 AVIATOR

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

137 Cases | Bottled July 13, 2020  
**Suggested Retail:** \$20

## FLYING CLOUD

Flying Cloud wines are produced at Stephen Ross Wine Cellars, and the name Flying Cloud pays tribute to the Eden Prairie airport in winemaker Stephen Ross Dooley's home state of Minnesota.

## VINTAGE

For San Miguel, 2018 was a slightly warmer growing season when compared to historical averages. Lower than normal rainfall over the winter resulted in a slightly later bud break, and cool weather during flowering extended the bloom period. However, there was warm weather July 6 through August 18 with 100 degree plus temperatures. Once the heat wave subsided, the weather pattern returned to normal leading up to harvest, which began anywhere from one to three weeks later than usual. The weather during September and October was beautiful with mild temperatures. We had the luxury to harvest at a rather slow, steady pace.

The Edna Valley experienced a very cool 2018 season and harvest. In terms of growing degree days (GDD) 2018 was the second coolest growing season in the past 10 years at 2,253 GDD. Only 2010 had fewer GDD at 2,145. Low rainfall year at 12 inches. During the spring and summer, we had day after day of moderate temperatures peaking just into the low 70s. There were only a few atypical days in July and August with temperatures in the 90s. Furthermore, the harvest weather was ideal with consistent mild temperatures. We had the luxury to bring in fruit at a manageable pace, at ideal sugar and acid levels, over the duration of the long harvest season, starting in early September and continuing into October.

## WINEMAKING

The Aviator blend was made using classic Burgundian methods of production; the grapes were de-stemmed and crushed into small stainless steel tanks, pumped-over and punched down daily during the peak of fermentation, 12 to 14 days of skin contact, lightly pressed with a state-of-the-art stainless steel basket press, and aged in neutral French oak barrels for fifteen months.

### Appellation:

Edna Valley (55% - Pinot Noir)  
Paso Robles (45% - Zinfandel and Petite Sirah)

### Varieties:

55% Pinot Noir, 27% Petite Sirah, 18% Zinfandel

### Fermentation:

fermented in small open top stainless-steel refrigerated tanks

### Aging:

Aged in 2-4 year old French oak barrels 20 months

<b>Alcohol:</b>	<b>pH:</b>	<b>T.A.:</b>
14.0%	3.64	5.70 g/L

# FLYING CLOUD WINERY



## TASTING NOTES

A balanced red blend for any night of the week. Aromas of sour cherry, black plum, and cranberry are accented by white pepper, chocolate and cardamom over a core of minerality. The fine tannins offer a perfect amount of grip.