



## 2019 VINEYARD OF THE YEAR

### KIONA VINEYARDS' HEART OF THE HILL

“The accumulated wisdom of three decades of farming on Red Mountain went into Kiona’s Heart of the Hill Vineyard. The site is owned by Scott and Vicky Williams, and it was Scott’s father, John Williams (along with Jim Holmes), who planted the original Kiona estate vineyard in 1975, back when Red Mountain was an unassuming sagebrush slope. In 2006, the Williamses began planting Heart of the Hill, a process that continued piece-meal until its completion in 2014. There are now 148.5 acres under vine, on a site that JJ Williams (Scott and Vicky’s son, and the third generation of Williamses to work on Red Mountain) calls “ideally situated on the slope.”

The family has bet big on Bordeaux varieties (they represent 94% of total planted acreage), and especially on Cabernet Sauvignon (81%), which has proven itself perfectly suited to this part of the Red Mountain slope, located just downslope from Col Solare Vineyard and just upslope from Ciel du Cheval Vineyard. And that bet is already paying dividends, with luminaries such as Betz Family Winery, Abeja and Long Shadows happily purchasing fruit from this young, exceedingly promising site right in the heart of Red Mountain.” — August 2019