

THE FORLORN HOPE

The Forlorn Hope wines are the result of a project devoted to displaying the wealth of California's viticultural potential -- as well as championing varieties less common. Taken as a departure from the stereotypical Californian product, the Rare Creatures of the Forlorn Hope display what is possible when great care is taken in combining soil type, climate/site, and variety to produce wines which require no manipulation.



Winemaker Matthew Rorick is a one-man operation in the winery, tending each fermentation and guiding the wine's cellaring through to bottle. Each of the Forlorn Hope wines is a window into the vineyard in a particular vintage; vital to this is a partnership with growers who share the vision of achieving balanced ripeness on the vine that requires no further adjustment, additions or manipulation in the winery during fermentation. The result yields wines that are an honest and natural representation of site and vine.

"At Matthew Rorick Wines, we love the longshots. We love the outsiders, the lost causes, the people/projects/ideas abandoned as not having a chance in the world. We love the longshots because we're all about tenacity, we relish a challenge, and – we admit it – we love us a good tussle."

Taken from the Dutch 'verloren hoop', meaning 'lost troop', Forlorn Hope was the name given to the band of soldiers who volunteered to lead the charge directly into enemy defenses. The chance of success for the Forlorn Hope was always slim, but the glory and rewards granted to survivors ensured no shortage of applicants."

"SAN HERCUMER DELLE FRECCHE"

BARBERA



Varietal/Blend: 100% Barbera

Farming: sustainable

Soil: iron-rich, large grain, 80% rocks – quartz, basalt, shale, and soapstone

Vine Age: 12 years

Yeast: natural

Fermentation: natural spontaneous fermentation

Aging: 12 months neutral oak

Alcohol: 13.9 %

Fined: none

Filtered: none

Production #s: 127 cases

Farmed by Ann Kraemer at Shake Ridge Vineyard, this Barbera was fermented with 100% stem inclusion in open-top 500L puncheons. The wine is named after a mini donkey who resides not far from the vineyard. Shot with an arrow by an unknown assailant, he has been elevated to living saint status: Saint Hercumer of the Arrows, patron saint of Amador County Barbera. The wine, like the mini-donkey, is stubborn, taciturn, fiercely loyal, and completely honest.

Country: California

Region: Amador County

Vineyard: Shake Ridge Vineyard