



EROE 2017 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

STORY

We forged a wine to champion inherent strength, to celebrate the brave and majestic eagle that emerges from within us to fight by our side. Eroe raises a glass to the strong willed, the unwavering, and the persevering. This is a wine for heroes that were made, not born.

VINTAGE REPORT

The year began and snowfall blanketed the hillsides of eastern Washington. Budbreak and bloom were delayed, but the summer still came, bringing warm days and cool nights. As the days progressed, heat accumulation began to exceed average trends. In late September, the temperature cooled significantly, slowing ripening. The proceeding weeks were neither too hot or too cold which allowed for extended hang time. Once the grapes were harvested and in the cellar fermenting, it was evident that the 2017 vintage would be remarkable. The resulting wines were plush with balanced acidity, great texture, and mouth-coating ripe tannins.

WINEMAKING NOTES

As we often do, especially given the diversity of the vineyard sources, we made several harvest passes for 2017, resulting in several distinct fermentations in Taransaud oak fermenters, a La Garde stainless-steel tank and several 500L roller barrels. This blending of our lots produces our best results. We began hand-picking the Cabernet Sauvignon on October 5th and 13th; we finished picking the Petit Verdot on October 18th. Once in the winery, the grapes were gently destemmed and lightly broken. Each lot received a 4-day cold soak before the grapes started conversion to wine. Maceration time on skins was 27-30 days followed by a gentle pressing then transfer to barrels where the wines slowly began malolactic fermentation. Once the secondary malolactic fermentation was complete, the wine aged in barrels for 28 months and received several rackings before going into bottle, where it aged a further 12 months before release.

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In June of 2018, shortly after the first racking when the wine began to open up and show a glimpse of its true character, we sat down to taste the previous vintage. While tasting through the various lots, we noticed a unique character unlike the rest: densely wound tannins with incredible length and concentration. The quality was undeniable. We pulled these barrels aside for a separate bottling, one that would soon become the first vintage of Eroe. The expression of varietal character from the Cabernet Sauvignon is pure and concentrated. Red Mountain is truly the epitome of a world-class grape-growing region for this noble grape.

DESCRIPTION

This wine was designed from the top four barrels of our premier Cabernet Sauvignon in 2017. Eloquently showcasing the purity of “place,” the Blackwood Canyons vineyard is an original site on Red Mountain, planted 1983. The cuvée was stylishly blended with a touch of Petit Verdot, also from Blackwood Canyons, to highlight the structural frame of this multi-dimensional wine.

TASTING NOTES

Aromas of Bing cherries, crushed rock, violets, and cocoa nibs effortlessly lift from the glass. The dark stone fruit character of this wine is balanced by forest floor notes and a sweet oak finish. The structure is dense with muscular tannins, superb tension and a drawn-out mineral finish. The unique character of this wine lingers on the palate with every sip and will benefit from a good decant or extended cellar aging.

TECHNICAL SPECS

COMPOSITION: 97% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 3% PETIT VERDOT
APPELLATION: RED MOUNTAIN AVA
VINEYARD: BLACKWOOD CANYON
YEAR PLANTED: 1983
MACERATION: 31-34 DAYS
AGING: BARREL AGED FOR 28 MONTHS IN HIGH-TIER 90% NEW FRENCH OAK
PRODUCTION SIZE: 94 CASES
WINEMAKER: PHILIPPE MELKA, MAAYAN KOSCHITZKY
ALCOHOL: 15.6%
TOTAL ACIDITY: 7.3 G/L
PH: 3.64
DECANT: OPEN 2-4 HOURS PRIOR TO ENJOYMENT TO REVEAL THE WINE'S COMPLEXITY