



RED MOUNTAIN CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2018

STORY

Driven by passion. Nurtured by family. Inspired by Red Mountain.

Coming from a long history in farming, the Aquilini family was drawn to Red Mountain. They knew its low rainfall, cleansing winds, and rich soils could be tailored to propagate fine grape varieties.

Red Mountain's great strength is its Cabernet Sauvignon. The Aquilini family planted nearly 70% of their acreage with it and selected 16 different clones to offer a full spectrum of blending possibilities. The wine is aged for 24 months in new French Oak. As subtle characteristics emerge, the winemaking team creates two blends. Aquilini's Grand Vin is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, characterized by incredible layers and selected for optimum aging capacity. Concentrated and structured, the Grand Vin strives to capture the signature power and tannin of Red Mountain fruit. The second wine, Aquilini's Family Blend, reflects similar qualities and depth, but is blended for a charming and softer personality. The Family Blend is constructed of Cabernet, Merlot and occasionally Petit Verdot, depending on what harvest dictates. While the first wine is designed to be cellared, the second is crafted for immediate drinking pleasure. In addition to their flagship reds, Aquilini also bottles small quantities of Sauvignon Blanc.

At the guidance of the renowned consulting winemakers at Atelier Melka, the Aquilini vision is to express the best of Red Mountain through an unwavering commitment to quality.

VINTAGE REPORT

The 2018 vintage was a warm growing season, producing wines with big and concentrated flavors. The year began with cooler than average temperatures in April which delayed budbreak, followed by a very warm May. Conditions at bloom were ideal, with quick and consistent fruit set leading to a larger crop. This required additional thinning. Moving into summer, temperatures warmed up significantly in July and August, setting up the vintage to be one of the warmest. In September, temperatures cooled, allowing for ideal ripening conditions and ample hang time.

AWARDS



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WINEMAKING NOTES

As we often do, especially given the diversity of the vineyard sources, we made several harvest passes for the 2018, resulting in several distinct fermentations in Taransaud oak fermenters, La Garde stainless-steel tanks and several 500L roller barrels. This “blending” of our lots produces our best results. We began hand-picking the Cabernet Sauvignon on October 4th and 12th. Once in the winery, the grapes were gently destemmed and lightly broken. A short pre-fermentation cold soak along with a lengthy maceration were followed by a gentle basket press cycle before transfer to French oak barrels where malolactic fermentation began. “Selection” began almost immediately, as the barrels were assessed and chosen for their unique character and distinct profile, then aged for 26 months.

DESCRIPTION

Forged by the earth, wind, and fire of Red Mountain, our 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon is a wine of exceptional quality and unique character. With auspicious soil, ideal climate, precision irrigation, and refreshing breezes, our winemaking team does very little to interfere with the natural fruit. Their approach is to respect the balance in the vineyard and then reveal the true character of Red Mountain in the cellar.

TASTING NOTES

Designed with the capacity to age, our Cabernet Sauvignon offers impressively large, ripe tannins and a deep core of concentrated dark berries, with savory nuances of bay leaf and cedar. The palate is intricate with grand texture and volume, revealing seamless integration of ripe fruit, dried herb, and sweet oak spice. Our winemaker’s goal is to gently extract the true expression and character from the vineyards, capturing the best of what our land has to offer. The 2018 vintage will be remembered as an incredible year offering the power, complexity, concentration, and virtue we expect from world-class Cabernet Sauvignon.

TECHNICAL SPECS

COMPOSITION: 100% CABERNET SAUVIGNON
APPELLATION: RED MOUNTAIN AVA
VINEYARD(S): THE CANYONS (EST. 2009) / BLACKWOOD CANYON (EST. 1983)
MACERATION: 26-31 DAYS
AGING: 26 MONTHS, FRENCH OAK
ALCOHOL: 15.50%
TOTAL ACIDITY: 6.1 G/L
PH: 3.87
PRODUCTION SIZE: 310 CASES / 3,720 BOTTLES
WINEMAKER: PHILIPPE MELKA, MAAYAN KOSCHITZKY
DECANT: OPEN 2-4 HOURS PRIOR TO ENJOYMENT TO REVEAL THE WINE'S COMPLEXITY.