



RED MOUNTAIN FAMILY BLEND 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, especially with the Merlot. 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

Our 2018 Aquilini Family Blend received the same care and winemaking treatments as our Cabernet Sauvignon. As we do for all our wines, we make several harvest passes to ensure the grapes are picked only when perfectly ripe. The grapes for the Family Blend were handpicked, beginning with the Merlot on September 19th, the Cabernet Sauvignon on October 4th and 12th, and the Petit Verdot on October 18th. 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. Our winemakers choose barrels that would imbue the wine with charm, elegance, and an overall softer profile than its big brother, Cabernet Sauvignon. For 2018, a greater amount of Merlot was added to soften the structure and provide greater generosity to the wine; a touch of Petit Verdot adds further complexity and spice to the Family Blend. Though designed for earlier consumption than the flagship Cabernet Sauvignon, the Family Blend will age gracefully; in fact, it possesses the capacity to reward the patient consumer over a ten year or longer aging curve.

DESCRIPTION

The conundrum presented by our 2018 Aquilini Family Blend is whether to celebrate it now, or savor it down the road. Either way, this wine romances with chocolate-dipped cherries, silky tannins, and a beguiling softness. Grown with the same tender care in the Blackwood Canyon and The Canyons vineyards beside our Cabernet Sauvignon, these grapes offer all the pleasure of the Cabernet, with lush generosity from the Merlot and a bit of bounce from the Petit Verdot. Although this wine will age gracefully, it's so delicious now, you may be tempted not to let it.

TASTING NOTES

By adding more Merlot than prior vintages, the 2018 Family Blend has a deliciously flamboyant character. Expressive aromas fill the glass with cherries, raspberries, crème brûlée and fresh garden herbs; subtle nuances of sweet oak spice, leather and graphite are layered beneath. The wine offers generous volume and texture with dusty tannins fading into a silky finish. Fresh and vibrant, this wine is enjoyable in its youth, yet will age gracefully over the next decade.

TECHNICAL SPECS

COMPOSITION:	68% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 24% MERLOT, 8% PETIT VERDOT
APPELLATION:	RED MOUNTAIN AVA
VINEYARD(S):	THE CANYONS (EST. 2009), BLACKWOOD CANYON (EST. 1983), KLIPSUN (EST. 1990)
MACERATION:	22-24 DAYS
AGING:	26 MONTHS
ALCOHOL:	15.70%
TOTAL ACIDITY:	6.2 G/L
PH:	3.83
PRODUCTION SIZE:	610 CASES / 7,320 BOTTLES
WINEMAKER:	PHILIPPE MELKA, MAAYAN KOSCHITZKY
DECANT:	OPEN 1-2 HOURS PRIOR TO ENJOYMENT TO REVEAL THE WINE'S COMPLEXITY.