



EAST BENCH CAB 2017

VARIETIES: 100% CABERNET SAUVIGNON
PRODUCTION: 49 KEGS (19.5L)
ALC./VOL.: 14.5%
OTHER: pH 3.65, TA: 6.1 g/L, RS: 1.9 g/L
CSPC: + 541995

THE GRAPES

Cabernet Sauvignon is one of the world's most famous wine grape varieties, grown in many regions around the world. It is a relatively late ripening grape variety that is recognized as a key variety in left bank Bordeaux blends and is a staple in our blend, Border Vines. Although we grow Cabernet Sauvignon grapes at multiple sites, the grapes we use for East Bench Cab are only grown in the Fernandes Vineyard on the Osoyoos East Bench. That makes this is a single vineyard wine.

VINTAGE REPORT

The 2017 growing season in Osoyoos did not deliver any significant deviations from the expected weather patterns. Spring was a little cooler and arrived a little later than usual, but summer delivered slightly above average temperatures with little rain which allowed the vineyards to catch up. Many burning wildfires resulted in stagnant air throughout the valley and increased humidity although smoke taint was not a concern. Fall weather was average, with wide diurnal margins in the early fall and a cold snap in early November. On balance – a good typical Osoyoos growing season that delivered quality, well-balanced fruit at harvest.

VINEYARD

- Osoyoos East Bench, Fernandes Vineyard
- Class 1 vineyard site, south-west aspect and slope.
- Soil: loamy sand with silica and granite composition.
- Harvest date: October 28, 2017
- Brix at harvest: 22.9 Brix

WINEMAKING

- Grapes hand-picked and sorted in the vineyard, then sorted again prior to destemming and pumping through to fermenters. No crushing.
- Warm to hot red fermentation at approx. 30°C in variable capacity 5,000 L stainless steel fermenters
- Gentle pumpovers three times daily
- Cooperage: 225 L barriques; François Frères. 25% new French Oak, remainder – neutral barrels.
- Malolactic Fermentation: YES, in tank and barrel.
- Filtered: YES
- Fined: NO
- Kegged: February 2019

TASTING NOTES

This is a medium-bodied, well-balanced wine that is medium ruby red in colour, with an elegant yet approachable texture and good intensity. It has a strong nose of black cherry, strawberry and violet. On the palate, the lush notes of black fruit continue, with notes of earthy beets, a hint of smoke, with anise and eucalyptus. The oak influence is subtle and befitting the softer, approachable tannin structure of this blend. This wine drinks well now. Since it is in keg format, it should only be stored for up to five years.

