



TOURIGA NACIONAL 2017

VARIETY: 100% TOURIGA NACIONAL
PRODUCTION: 237 CASES
ALC./VOL.: 14.3%
OTHER: pH 3.85, TA: 6.0 g/L, RS: 2.3 g/L
CSPC: + 30841

THE GRAPES

Touriga Nacional is a red grape variety that is best known for being grown in the Douro and Dão region of Portugal. Often used in blends to make port, it is increasingly being used to make table wines. This low yielding variety produces very few bunches of small grapes. The resulting high skin to pulp ratio makes for a well-structured, aromatic wine with high tannins and intense black and red fruit flavours. To the best of our knowledge, Moon Curser is the only producer of this grape variety in British Columbia.

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, Moon Curser Vineyard
- Class 1 vineyard site, south-west aspect and slope.
- Soils: loamy sand, with silica and granite composition.
- Harvest date: November 9, 2017
- Brix at harvest: 24.6 Brix

WINEMAKING

- Grapes hand-picked and sorted in the vineyard, then sorted again prior to destemming and pumping through to fermenters. No crushing.
- Warm red fermentation at approx. 26°C in variable capacity 5,000 L stainless steel fermenters
- Pumpovers three times daily
- Cooperage: 225 L barriques; François Frère. 30% new French oak, remainder – neutral barrels
- Malolactic Fermentation: YES, in tank and barrel.
- Filtered: YES
- Fined: NO
- Bottled: March 2019

TASTING NOTES

The 2017 Touriga Nacional is a dry, medium-bodied red wine with a medium ruby colour. The nose is enticing with raspberries, black pepper, anise and paprika notes. The palate is similar to the nose and with hints of leather, dried thyme and cedar. Medium weight with smooth mouthfeel and silky tannin and acid structure, the wine delivers an intriguing profile of savoury and fruity characters. We anticipate that our Touriga Nacional will evolve nicely in bottle over the next five to seven years.