



MALBEC 2018

VARIETY: 100% MALBEC
PRODUCTION: 4,464 litres (496 cases)
ALC./VOL.: 15.1%
OTHER: pH 3.55, TA: 6.8 g/L, RS: 2.1 g/L
CSPC: + 70300

THE GRAPES

Malbec is a grape variety that is native to the south-west of France. It is one of the six grape varieties allowed in a Bordeaux blend. It has become the flagship of wine of Argentina and its popularity has been steadily growing in recent years. This thin-skinned grape has been known to need heat and sun and is thus a perfect candidate for our Osoyoos East Bench home.

VINTAGE REPORT

The 2018 growing season in Osoyoos delivered fruit of excellent quality. Spring was a little cooler and arrived a little later than usual, but summer brought above average temperatures with little rain which allowed the vines to catch up. Moderate temperatures and cooler nights towards the end of the summer allowed for the development of both bright, lively acidity and balanced, complex flavour profiles. Many burning wildfires resulted in stagnant air throughout the valley and increased humidity, although smoke taint was not a concern. Fall weather was as expected, with wide diurnal margins in the early fall, while remaining temperate in late fall. The season allowed for a balanced accumulation of sugars and acid, resulting in naturally balanced wines.

VINEYARD

- Osoyoos East Bench, Moon Curser Vineyard
- Class 1 vineyard site, south-west aspect and slope.
- Soil: loamy sand with silica and granite composition.
- Harvest date: October 11, 2018
- Brix at harvest: 25.8 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 in the range of approx. 20°C to 25°C in variable capacity 5,000 L and 7,000 L stainless steel fermenters.
- Gentle pumpovers three times daily.
- Cooperage: 225 L barriques; François Frère and Seguin Moreau. 20% new French oak, remainder – neutral barrels.
- Malolactic Fermentation: YES, in tank and barrel.
- Filtered: YES
- Fined: NO
- Vegan: YES
- Bottled: March 2020

TASTING NOTES

This is a medium to full-bodied red wine with a vibrant dark purple colour. Intense notes of blueberries, violet, dark chocolate and caramel dominate the nose. The refined, fruit-forward palate has characters of black cherry, plum, eucalyptus and vanilla bean. The wine has a generous, plush texture backed up with plentiful rich tannins and well-balanced acid structure. With its balanced structure and warm but delicate finish, this wine drinks well now, but with proper cellaring can be enjoyed over the next seven to ten years.