



TOURIGA NACIONAL 2018

VARIETY:	100% TOURIGA NACIONAL
PRODUCTION:	2,668 litres (equivalent to 296 cases)
ALC./VOL.:	13.6%
OTHER:	pH: 3.86; TA: 5.4 g/L; RS: 2.26 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 wines. To the best of our knowledge, Moon Curser is the only producer in British Columbia making a table wine from this grape variety.

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: November 8, 2018
- Brix at harvest: 23.7 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 stainless steel fermenters.
- Pumpovers three times daily.
- Cooperage: 225 L barriques; François Frère. 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

The 2018 Touriga Nacional is a dry, medium-bodied red wine with a medium ruby colour. The nose is alluring, with highly aromatic notes of dark berries, black pepper, violets and rosemary. The palate rounds out the flavour profile with its notes of fresh sage and cigar box. This is an exceptionally harmonious wine that delivers a truly captivating tasting experience. Our 2018 Touriga Nacional will evolve nicely in bottle over the next five to seven years, although it is also quite approachable upon release.