



SELECTED BARRELS

Cabernet Merlot

Vintage: 2019 Price: \$17.99 (BC+tax) CSPC: 13920 UPC: 626037003021

Availability: Winery, online, Bench Club, grocery stores, BCLDB

HARVEST REPORT:

The 2019 grape growing season in the Oliver and Osoyoos region was one of remarkable variability, with fluctuating conditions in the winter and fall, but seeing a beautifully balanced summer. Overall Growing Degree Days (GDD) were 1598, above the 20 year average of 1474. Seasonally average temperatures with few heat spikes in the summer resulted in an even growing season overall leading to a great start for harvest. The temperatures in September were somewhat warmer than usual, however we experienced more precipitation than normal. Our picking started September 3 with the last of our table white wine grapes finished on October 2. Our Merlot harvest was completed shortly thereafter, with the last of our reds picked November 4. A severe widespread frost event throughout the entire Okanagan Valley occurred the night of October 9th. Despite this early cold snap, our remaining grapes on the vine were fortunately at the right maturity levels, with desired ripeness achieved. Crop levels were only slightly below normal and as a whole, the 2019 wines are showing outstanding aromatics and flavours, with bright natural acidity, and good colours and structure. We expect our wines from the 2019 vintage to really shine.

WINEMAKING:

Crafted with handpicked fruit, the grapes for this wine were sourced from our estate property on the Golden Mile Bench along with select growers in the Oliver and Osoyoos area. The Merlot was harvested early in October followed by Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon in late October and early November. The lots were fermented in our Italian Ganimede fermenters and after a gentle extraction of ample colours and tannins, were pressed and encouraged through malolactic fermentation. The varietals were then blended and aged in 60% French and 40% American oak to create a wine with well-integrated flavours that is ready to enjoy now.

TASTING NOTES:

Complex yet approachable, this pleasing blend of Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Cabernet Sauvignon has sumptuous aromas of black currant, blackberry and fragrant sage. The palate displays medium tannins with light toasty vanilla notes, highlighted with rich plum and ripe black cherry flavours. A versatile wine that is incredibly food friendly, pair with friends and your favourite grilled meats or a braised beef stew.

Our roots run deep with half century old vines, rooted in the Golden Mile Bench's exceptional terroir. Blending sustainable vineyard practices and innovative winemaking, we craft wines of distinction that are an intensely flavoured expression of our historic vineyard.

WINEMAKER SPECS:

Harvest Date: October 18-early November 2019

Bottling Date: August 8, 2020

Blend: 49% Merlot, 27% Cabernet Franc, 24% Cabernet Sauvignon

Aging: 8 months

Oak: 60% French, 40% American

Ageability: Enjoy now or up to 5 years

Alc: 13.6% **RS:** 2.0 g/L

pH: 3.77 **TA:** 6.3 g/L

Brix at harvest: 23.4 average

Vegan: yes

Alc: alcohol | RS: residual sugar | TA: total acidity

HESTER CREEK



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