

Cabernet Sauvignon

LABEL: MERCER FAMILY VINEYARDS RESERVE

AVA: HORSE HEAVEN HILLS

VIN: 2020



WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Aromas of ripe blackberries, bright red currants, savory herb, and sweet pipe tobacco are highlighted by vanilla and sweet spice. The ripe fruit flavors carry through in the palate with a light touch of acidity. Sleek tannins lead into powdery tannins on the finish.

-Head Winemaker, Ashley Stephens

VINEYARD SOURCING

The grapes for this wine come from our estate vineyards in the Horse Heaven Hills. The Cabernet Sauvignon hails from Spice Cabinet, Cavalie, Eagle & Plow, and Big Tee Pee. The Syrah from our Milt's and Spice Cabinet vineyards and the Merlot from Spice Cabinet and Dead Canyon vineyards.

GROWING SEASON

The 2018 vintage started out cooler than normal, but temperatures quickly warmed up in August. The temperature change was very consistent. Along with the lower crop yields, the grapes were able to develop concentrated and vibrant flavors which allowed for even ripening. This lent to great acidity and fresh fruit aromas. The consistent temperate conditions allowed for an elegant style of grape maturation.

WINEMAKING

During harvest, these grapes were sorted in the vineyard with our state of the art harvesters and sorting equipment. The fruit was not crushed in order to preserve as much whole-berry as possible. At the winery, individual lots were fermented in stainless steel tanks. Twice daily pumpovers allowed gentle extraction of color and tannins. After draining the wine and pressing the skins, the wine was racked to a blend of French and American oak barrels for malolactic fermentation. The wine was aged in barrel for 20 months before being blended together for bottling.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation: Horse Heaven Hills

Blend: 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, 5% Syrah

Alcohol: 14.7%

T.A: 0.54 g/100 ml

pH: 3.98

UPC: 898012002019

ACCLAIM, VINTAGE 2018:

92 points - James Suckling

91 points - Tasting Room Magazine

Silver - San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition