

ANCIENT PEAKS

2017 | PEARL CABERNET SAUVIGNON

PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA | SANTA MARGARITA RANCH



OVERVIEW

Introducing the inaugural vintage of our Cabernet Sauvignon Pearl Collection. This wine was crafted as the ultimate expression of Cabernet Sauvignon from our estate Margarita Vineyard—and to showcase Paso Robles as a world-class region for this preeminent Bordeaux variety. Hailing from specially cultivated blocks and aged in 100-percent new French oak barrels, this wine is nothing short of a blockbuster Cabernet Sauvignon with a striking sense of place.

VINEYARD

Margarita Vineyard boasts a proven track record for growing exceptional Cabernet Sauvignon. Here, uniquely complex soils and a marine-moderated climate combine to deliver fruit with ripeness, structure and dimension. The 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Pearl Collection is composed of fruit from the hillsides of Block 49, which produces small, intensely flavored berries with an elegant red-blue fruit character; from the upper portion of Block 50, which yields a powerful black-blue fruit spectrum; and from Block 15, where ancient sea bed soils and cooler conditions yield fruit with earthy structure and firm tannins. Each of these sites was isolated at the start of the growing season and given fastidious viticultural attention to produce a Cabernet Sauvignon of extraordinary natural character.

WINEMAKING

A long growing season in 2017 allowed for excellent hang time and phenolic development. Special care was taken in the targeted vineyard blocks to maximize canopy airflow and limit yields for enhanced fruit intensity. The fruit was gently destemmed, cold soaked for three days and fermented in small 10-ton tanks. The individual lots of free-run juice were aged in 100-percent new French oak barrels by Taransaud, Tonnellerie Ô and Sylvain. Each of these barrels featured naturally tight-grained wood for seamless oak integration, as well as medium to medium-plus toasting for judicious complexity. A small lot of Petit Verdot from Margarita Vineyard was incorporated into the final blend for added color and aromatic dimension.

TASTING NOTES

The 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Pearl Collection is loaded with exceptional varietal typicity from start to finish. A rich, roiling bouquet bursts from the glass with blue and black fruit aromas framed by notes of black olive, toasty vanilla and pencil shavings. A fat, massive texture uncoils with densely layered flavors of blueberry, black currant, blackberry pie, cranberry, mint leaf, toasted oak and mocha spice. Fresh mineral notes bring focus to the native fruit intensity, while luscious acidity and sleek tannins promise longevity in the bottle for many years to come.

VINEYARD:

Margarita Vineyard

VARIETAL COMPOSITION:

Cabernet Sauvignon 95%
Petit Verdot 5%

SOIL TYPE:

Ancient Sea Bed

HARVEST DATES:

October 19 (Block 15)
November 2 (Block 49 Hillside)
November 10 (Block 50 Upper)
October 14 (Petit Verdot, Block 35)

AGING REGIMEN:

23 Months in French oak barrels
100% new oak

FINAL ANALYSIS:

Alcohol: 14.7%
TA: .67
pH: 3.80

CASES PRODUCED:

465

SRP:

\$70

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