

ANCIENT PEAKS

2018 | PEARL CABERNET SAUVIGNON

PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA | SANTA MARGARITA RANCH



OVERVIEW

The Cabernet Sauvignon Pearl Collection is crafted as the ultimate expression of Cabernet Sauvignon from our estate Margarita Vineyard. 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. Margarita Vineyard stands alone as the southernmost vineyard in the Paso Robles region, nestled into the rugged Santa Lucia Mountain range just 14 miles from the Pacific Ocean in the Santa Margarita Ranch AVA. The 2018 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; and from the upper portion of Block 50, which yields a powerful black-blue fruit spectrum. It also includes a small lot of Petit Verdot from Block 35. 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. Special care was taken in these targeted vineyard blocks to maximize canopy airflow and limit yields for enhanced fruit intensity.

WINEMAKING

The 2018 growing season started on a cool note after abundant March rains. A warm July gained ground on what was nevertheless a long, late harvest season, with the Cabernet Sauvignon fruit being picked through November 6. The fruit was gently destemmed, cold soaked for three days and fermented in small 10-ton tanks. Careful phenolic management during fermentation allowed for the development of a full, round mouthfeel. 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, structure and aromatic dimension.

TASTING NOTES

The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Pearl Collection is a showstopper from start to finish, revealing what is possible from Cabernet Sauvignon grown at Margarita Vineyard. Aromas of blueberry, mocha, graham cracker and toasted oak anticipate secondary suggestions of cassis and tobacco. The palate is dense and layered, showing integrated notes of black cherry, blackberry, black olive and graphite. Sleek yet assertive tannins promise years of length and longevity.

VINEYARD:

Margarita Vineyard

VARIETAL COMPOSITION:

Cabernet Sauvignon 91%
Petit Verdot 9%

SOIL TYPE:

Ancient Sea Bed

HARVEST DATES:

November 5 (Cabernet Sauvignon, Block 50 Upper)
November 6 (Cabernet Sauvignon, Block 49 Hillside)
November 12 (Petit Verdot, Block 35)

AGING REGIMEN:

23 Months in French oak barrels
100% new oak

FINAL ANALYSIS:

Alcohol: 14.9%
TA: .60
pH: 3.80

CASES PRODUCED:

522

SRP:

\$70



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