

ANCIENT PEAKS

2020 | PEARL CABERNET SAUVIGNON

PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA | SANTA MARGARITA RANCH



OVERVIEW

The Pearl Cabernet Sauvignon is crafted as the premier 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 showcases Paso Robles as a world-class region for Cabernet Sauvignon while expressing Margarita Vineyard's singular terroir.

VINEYARD

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. Here, uniquely complex soils and a marine-moderated climate combine to deliver Cabernet Sauvignon fruit with ripeness, structure and dimension. The 2020 Pearl Cabernet Sauvignon is composed of fruit from the upper portion of Block 15, which yields small berries with dark flavors and savory complexity; the shale-riddled slope of Block 31, which delivers deep, concentrated varietal flavors; and the hillside of Block 49, which produces intensely flavored grapes with an elegant red-blue fruit character. 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 2020 growing season was marked by a mild spring and summer, punctuated by two late-summer heat waves that accelerated the pace of ripening into harvest. The fruit was gently destemmed, cold soaked for three days and fermented in small 10-ton fermenters. Detailed phenolic management allowed for the development of a full, round mouthfeel during fermentation. 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. Extended barrel aging for 23 months allowed for perfect integration and maturation prior to bottling.

TASTING NOTES

The 2020 Pearl Cabernet Sauvignon is a blockbuster wine that shows the full potential of Cabernet Sauvignon grown at Margarita Vineyard. Aromas of ripe blackberry, vanilla and graphite show hints of black olive and earthy loam. A plush, mouthfilling texture delivers layered flavors of plum, cranberry, cherry and blueberry. Suggestions of toasted oak, caramel and cola bring added complexity to a firm, structured finish.

VINEYARD:

Margarita Vineyard

SOIL TYPE:

Ancient Sea Bed Shale

VARIETAL COMPOSITION:

Cabernet Sauvignon 95%
Petit Verdot 5%

HARVEST DATES:

October 13 (Block 49 Hillside)
October 13 (Block 31 Hillside)
October 21 (Block 15 Upper)

AGING REGIMEN:

23 Months in French oak barrels
100% new oak

FINAL ANALYSIS:

Alcohol: 14.7%
TA: .65
pH: 3.72

CASES PRODUCED:

956



OUR ULTIMATE CABERNET SAUVIGNON FROM MARGARITA VINEYARD
BORN OF THE SOIL, SHAPED BY THE PACIFIC, PERFECTED BY HAND.