

# ANCIENT PEAKS

v. 2021 | OYSTER RIDGE

PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA | SANTA MARGARITA RANCH



## OVERVIEW

Each year, we craft the limited-edition Oyster Ridge cuvée to exemplify our finest winemaking efforts. The name Oyster Ridge is a tribute to the large white oyster fossils that predominate in our estate Margarita Vineyard, fostering the type of calcium-rich soils coveted by winemakers worldwide. The 2021 vintage is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (69%), Cabernet Franc (20%), Petit Verdot (5%), Merlot (3%) and Malbec (3%), all from meticulously farmed vineyard blocks cultivated for the Oyster Ridge program.

## 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. The proliferation of sea fossils at Oyster Ridge is the most vivid example of the complex geology found at Margarita Vineyard. This namesake Oyster Ridge blend comes from specific spots at Margarita Vineyard that have proven to produce remarkable fruit. All vineyard subsections designated for Oyster Ridge are isolated at the start of the growing season, and they are fastidiously tended to maximize the fruit's potential and meet the standards of the Oyster Ridge program. The 2021 vintage is driven by Cabernet Sauvignon from blocks 15, 31, 49 and 50. Block 15 is notable for its ancient sea bed soils that yield bright acidity and blue fruit notes. Block 31 unfolds along a shale-riddled slope that delivers deep, concentrated varietal flavors, while blocks 49 and 50 produce a classic red-black fruit character from fossil-riddled soils. Similarly specific selection was applied to the other varieties that round out this classic Bordeaux-style blend.

## WINEMAKING

After hand harvesting, each lot was cold soaked for two to three days. More than 90 percent of the blend was fermented in small 10-ton fermenters to generate added thermal energy for enhanced extraction, with attentive phenolic monitoring to dial in an ideal mouthfeel. After fermentation, only the free-run juice was selected. Each lot was aged separately for 22 months in premium French oak barrels, inclusive of 80 percent new oak. The final blend was assembled from only those barrels that exhibited exemplary complexity, structure and aging potential. Cabernet Sauvignon is predominant with broad, polished layers and classic varietal expression. Cabernet Franc enlivens the aromatic profile with suggestions of violets and savory spice, while Petit Verdot contributes color, structure and aromatic nuances. Merlot adds lift and silkiness to the palate, and Malbec completes the experience with undertones of juicy red fruit.

## TASTING NOTES

The 2021 Oyster Ridge is a showstopper out of the glass with warm aromas of plum, cranberry, black fruits and toasted oak, all underpinned by accents of violets and savory herbs. The mouthfeel is plush and layered, showing a Bordeaux-like integration of currant, black cherry, graphite, eucalyptus spiced chocolate and elegant earth tones. Balanced acidity and enduring tannins linger on a beautifully structured finish.

## VINEYARD:

Margarita Vineyard

## SOIL TYPE:

Ancient Sea Bed 

## VARIETAL COMPOSITION:

Cabernet Sauvignon 69%  
Cabernet Franc 20%  
Petit Verdot 5%  
Merlot 3%  
Malbec 3%

## HARVEST DATES:

October 12 (Blocks 15 and 31)  
October 28 (Block 49B Hilltop)  
November 1 (Block 50)  
October 15 (Block 7)  
October 22 (Block 45A)  
October 28 (Block 35A)  
November 3 (Block 9)

## AGING REGIMEN:

22 months in French oak  
barrels 80% new oak

## FINAL ANALYSIS:

Alcohol: 14.3%  
TA: .63  
pH: 3.74

## CASES

PRODUCED:  
976



PEARL COLLECTION

OUR ULTIMATE CUVÉE FROM MARGARITA VINEYARD

BORN OF THE SOIL, SHAPED BY THE PACIFIC, PERFECTED BY HAND.

FAMILY OWNED | ESTATE GROWN

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