



MOONE + TSAI

Wine Profile

2021 Black List XXXIII

Tasting Notes

The 2021 vintage will be remembered for low yields delivering intensely flavored, small-sized berries tied to a smooth and uneventful growing season. The scant rains through the winter and early spring led to the second year of drought conditions. While more rain would have been welcomed (invariably so), these dryer conditions resulted in a more natural load on the vines, requiring less pruning and dropping of fruit. Smaller yields characterized the season's highly anticipated outcome – glorious grapes packed with flavor.

Deep ruby in hue, our 33rd Black List selection entices from the start. Fragrant with black fruit, baking spices, cedar (and subtle suggestion of Tawny Port), this 100% Cabernet Sauvignon is a tribute to its vintage and terroir. Focused and resolute on the attack, notes of blackberries, plum, morello cherries and pencil shavings elicit notice. The mid-palate is textured with medium-plus acidity and volume, while revealing silky tannins in line with the wine's structural intentions. Fermented in stainless steel tanks (3-days cold soak, 23 days on skins), and aged 18 months in 75% new French Oak, the wine's pleasing balance and structure point to its gracefully gliding finish. Smart, plucky, and unassumingly playful, we are reminded of UC Berkeley's recently acclaimed Nobel Laureate, Jennifer Doudna, whose triumphs in the field of genetic editing are testimony to what can be possible when patience, passion, and persistence are applied.

The backbone of this notable Cabernet is grown on a unique parcel located in the Soda Canyon district, just south of the Stags Leap AVA at the cooler end of Napa Valley. Here, the soil is loamy, rocky, and deep, supporting bigger and stronger vines that lend themselves to generous, layered wines noted for refinement and nuanced acidity.

Winemaker: Philippe Melka, Bordeaux-bred (*Chateau Haut Brion, Petrus*) and – heralded by Robert Parker as one of the top nine winemakers in the world. *“Where possible, I will minimize winemaking techniques in the cellar so I can create a wine that tells the story of the vineyard. In the end, it must be about the fruit.”*

Wine Facts

Varietal Composition:	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Vineyards:	Soda Canyon, Oakville
Production:	198 cases
Harvest Date:	Sept. 17 th – Oct. 5 th 2021
Cooperage:	75% new French oak (18 months): St. Martin, Francois Freres, Taransaud
Bottle Date:	June 2, 2023
Release Date:	Scheduled for May 2024

For more information: Visit www.moonetsai.com, or contact info@moonetsai.com.