



MOONE + TSAI

2022 Black List XXXV

Tasting Notes

The 2022 harvest capped one of the most unique growing seasons in recent history, starting with a classic white wine harvest that opened in early August, followed quickly by red wine varieties. Notwithstanding an unexpected heat spike over five days in September, rains followed to provide a welcomed respite allowing harvest to proceed through mid-October. The results were white wines showcasing delightful flavors/textures, and perfect acidity/freshness, followed by remarkable reds showcasing deep colors, luxurious tannins and exquisite aromatics.

The wine's inky, dark ruby hues suggest a touch of mystery inviting one to wonder "What lies beneath?" Genteel on the nose, the wine reveals hints of black fruit, sweet baking spices and shaved cedar. The attack, however, forgoes the wine's initial restraint, giving way to pronouncements of dense black plum and berries, counterpointed by notes of sweet oak, morello cherry and dried cranberry. Fermented in stainless steel tanks (individual lots) with an average 3-days cold-soak (22-days on-skins), the wine is aged for 20 months in 70% new French Oak to display a delineated structure marked by a pleasing acidity, chewy tannins and a weighty mid palate, all pointing to a satisfyingly resolute finish. Magisterial, direct, and yet refined, this 100% Cabernet affirms that this is one serious wine to be savored. To bring this home, we invite you to recall the acclaimed Royal Shakespeare Company's actor, Ralph Fiennes, whose portrayal most recently in *Conclave* left us astounded. Indeed, we are reminded that when immeasurable talent combines with unwavering commitment; behold: Come what may!

The backbone of this notable Cabernet blends gorgeous fruit from the majestic Montagna Vineyard on Pritchard Hill, in concert with favored rows found in St Helena, and Coombsville, where precious fruit from prized blocks have been flourishing in rocky, volcanic soils for over 30 years.

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:	Pritchard Hill, St Helena, Coombsville
Harvest Date:	Sept. 13 th – Oct. 10 th 2022
Cooperage:	70% new French oak (20 months): St. Martin, Francois Freres, Taransaud
Bottle Date:	June 24, 2024