



Michael Shaps

2021

CABERNET FRANC

MONTICELLO

Varieties

100% Cabernet Franc

AVA

Monticello

Vineyard

68% Honah Lee

32% Shenandoah Vineyards

Harvest Date

September 24, 2021

Fermentation & Aging

Stainless steel fermenters
and barrel aged 19 months:

44% in new French oak

36% in 1 to 2 year-old French oak

20% Neutral oak

Technical Data

Brix at Harvest: 23

pH: 3.63

TA: 6.83 grams/L

Alc: 13.5%

RS: 0.02%

Bottled: April 25, 2023

Cases Produced: 624

VINEYARD NOTES

The fruit for the 2021 Cabernet Franc was sourced from a few of the best vineyard sites Michael could find that year. Honah Lee makes up the majority which consistently delivers excellent fruit from its high elevation of 1000 ft. Cabernet franc flourishes here where it can ripen easily while maintaining some of its typical green notes. Crimson Lane, Russ Mountain, and Cedar creek all contribute some of the other varieties needed to round out this wine, adding depth and complexity to this vintage.

WINEMAKING NOTES

All of our cabernet franc is hand harvested and transferred to the winery for cooling prior to de-stemming without crushing. 20% whole berry return is added to the tank to help bring out a brighter fruit component. A 48-hour cold maceration prior to fermentation helps build mouth feel and color without extracting too much tannin. No commercial yeast strains are used, as we prefer to create a starter from its own juice during the cold maceration process. We conduct pump-overs twice daily throughout fermentation; after it's complete we continue to extend the maceration for several weeks with daily pump-overs.

After pressing and settling, the wine is transferred to French oak barrels, of which 44% are new oak. Malolactic fermentation occurs during barrel aging. After the malolactic is complete the wine is racked and aged for a total of 19 months before being bottled unfiltered.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Cabernet franc has been one of Michael's favorite varieties to make because of its unique expression and style that represents the variety and Virginia well. Cabernet franc is resistant to Virginia's humid conditions and ripens well on the deep clay soils. This vintage, we decided to showcase the variety with a 100% varietal wine. Fresh red cherry and raspberry are prevalent on the palate and a medium body is matched with bright acidity to make this a very versatile pairing wine. Enjoyable now, but can aged for about 3-5 years.