



Michael Shaps

2019

MERITAGE

VIRGINIA RED WINE

Varieties

44.5% Merlot
33.3% Cabernet Franc
22.2% Petit Verdot

AVA

Virginia

Vineyard

43.3% Honah Lee
33.3% Mt. Ida
11.3% Cedar Creek
6.7% White Horse
5.3% High Ridge

Harvest Date

September 2019

Fermentation & Aging

Stainless steel fermenters
and barrel aged 18 months:
77.8% in new French Oak
22.2% in neutral French Oak

Technical Data

Brix at Harvest: 23.4 - 25.5
pH: 3.59
TA: 6.9 grams/L
Alc: 13.1%
RS: 0.05%
Bottled: June 3, 2021
Cases Produced: 222

VINEYARD NOTES

Just under half of the fruit sourced for the 2019 Meritage is from Honah Lee located in Gordonsville, VA within the Monticello AVA. The vineyard is at an elevation of 1000ft and is made up mostly of Davidson Clay which is well draining soil. The southeast exposure offers great sunlight to help achieve maximum ripeness. About 33% of the fruit comes from Mt. Ida, which is situated in Charlottesville among a 7,000 acre sanctuary with picturesque views of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

WINEMAKING NOTES

All of the grapes were de-stemmed into open top fermenters and then cold soaked for 5-7 days for added extraction. The tanks are then heated in order to encourage ambient yeast fermentation. We do not use any commercial yeast strain, but rather create a starter from its own juice during the cold maceration process. During fermentation, we conduct pump-overs twice daily until the end of fermentation and 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 almost 80% is new oak. The wines are aged as varietals, then blended the following Spring, and aged for a total of 18 months.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

We believe that the Bordeaux blends produce some of Virginia's best and more expressive wines. The art of blending different varieties from different vineyards highlights the nuances of each of our vineyard sites. Our 2019 Meritage blend is a reflection of what we strive for in both the grape growing and winemaking. We are crafting a wine to represent the highest quality of what we are capable of producing from the vineyard to the bottle. Only the best grapes and finished barrels go into this blend. The result is a balanced, well-structured wine that will continue to develop under proper cellar conditions for about 10-12 years.