



Michael Shaps

2019
PUISSANCE
CABERNET SAUVIGNON
MONTICELLO

Varieties

90.5% Cabernet Sauvignon
8.5% Cabernet Franc
0.5% Petit Verdot
0.5% Tannat

AVA

Monticello

Vineyard

92% Adventure Farm
8% Honah Lee

Harvest Date

September, 2019

Fermentation & Aging

Stainless steel fermenters
and barrel aged 34 months:

45% in new French Oak
55% in neutral French Oak

Technical Data

pH: 3.8
TA: 6.4 grams/L
Alc: 14.1%
RS: 1.34%
Bottled: July 28, 2022
Cases Produced: 53

VINEYARD NOTES

Most of the fruit this year came from Adventure Farm in Earlysville, VA. This vineyard is situated at about 850 ft, and is primarily clay and limestone. It consistently produces excellent Cabernert Sauvignon, reaching peak ripeness and strong acidity. The remainder comes from Honah Lee in Gordsonsville, VA which has grown some of the highest quality fruit in the state. The vineyard is at an elevation of about 1,000 ft, and sits atop Davidson clay.

WINEMAKING NOTES

Puissance was produced by including a special technique known as *apassimento* in Italian. The process involves air drying some of the grapes in our tobacco barn to achieve a higher concentration of sugar to water, giving the juice a richness that comes through in the finished product. The rest of the juice is fermented in stainless steel vats, and aged in a combination of new and neutral French oak barrels for 34 months.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Our 2019 Puissance (meaning powerful) lives up to its name through a combination of the *apassimento* style and long maturation period. The grapes used for this wine were air-dried to reach a higher concentration of sugar to water ratio, which gives the wine a deep, dense texture and rich flavor. Similar to the Italian wine Amarone, this is meant to be a full-bodied, and powerful wine with notes of chocolate, black cherry, and smoke. It has some big but round tannins on the palate, and is complemented well with firm acidity to help balance the structure.

This is definitely an age-worthy wine, about 15-20 years, and will need a lot of aeration in its youth. It is a great wine for full-bodied dishes and rich sauces, as well as aged hard cheeses.