
PARADISE SPRINGS WINERY

MERLOT

2019

TECHNICAL DATA

pH: 3.69

Acid: 6.0 g/l

Alcohol: 13.1%

GRAPE SOURCES

90% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 5% Tannat sourced entirely from Williams Gap Vineyards

APPELLATIONS

Loudoun County

HARVEST DATES

September 10, 2019

WINEMAKING DATA

The grapes were harvested and refrigerated on site at 40 F overnight and the next day they were destemmed into fermentation bins. They were immediately heated in a hot room to allow us to inoculate the must with yeast. Fermentation lasted 12 days as gentle punch downs were done twice-a-day. The wine was then pressed off into tank, allowing the wine to settle for two days until it was moved into barrels. The wine went through malolactic fermentation while aging for 10 months in both new and neutral barrels of French oak. Ermitage and Berger cooperages were used. The 2019 Merlot was bottled on August 3, 2020.

WINEMAKER NOTES

Merlot has become one of the most widely planted varieties in Virginia and is important to the future of wines in the Commonwealth moving forward. This Merlot starts with notes of raspberry and violet that lead to flavors of red fruit and black tea, finishing with a touch of baking spice. The big, chewy tannins and ample acidity will help this wine age well into the future.

VINTAGE NOTES

The beginning of the 2019 growing season started to mimic the start of the 2018 season. Bud break started as normal, and a semi wet start as vegetation started pushing out. Things soon changed as the season progressed with a much drier summer and intermittent heat waves in late July and August that accelerated the beginning of the harvest season by about two weeks. The white grapes were brought in rapidly before too much acid was lost to maintain good balance in those wines. Once the red grapes were harvested, the weather cooled to reflect a typical season. The cooler nights allowed most red grapes to retain good acidity with the high brix from the early season heat wave. Overall, the 2019 vintage will be remembered as a better than average for Virginia and one of the best of that decade.

