

GRAMERCY CELLARS



2017 CABERNET SAUVIGNON RESERVE COLUMBIA VALLEY



BLEND: 100% CABERNET SAUVIGNON
VINEYARDS: BACCHUS & PHINNY HILL
AGING: 22 MONTHS, 50% NEW FRENCH OAK
ALCOHOL: 14.2%
WINERY RETAIL: 95
CASE PRODUCTION: 300 CASES
DRINKING WINDOW: 2021 - 2049

WINE ADVOCATE: 96 POINTS
WINE & SPIRITS: 95 POINTS
JEB DUNNUCK: 94+ POINTS

Like the John Lewis Syrah, we begin blending the Reserve Cabernet with the question, “What is the best of the best in the cellar for that vintage?” Sometimes it’s a specific block of a vineyard. Other times, it is two vineyards in the same AVA. Maybe we find two or three vineyards that pair amazingly well in that specific year and produce a stunning wine, regardless of what the map says about their locations. Our only goal is to make the most stunning Bordeaux based varietal wine in that vintage. While we wander down this path, we always have two specific vineyards at the forefront of our minds.

We like to say that our Reserve was gifted to us by one of our fantastic grower partners. In the Winter of 2012, we received a very unexpected phone call from Kent Wailser of Sagemoor Vineyards. He said, “I’ve been tasting your Cabernet since 2006, and I think we may have something that would fit into your program.” Sagemoor is an incredible Cabernet vineyard with a remarkably storied history. Some of the most exalted Washington Cabernets ever made by the most prestigious wineries was with their fruit. Sagemoor lies on a hillside overlooking the Columbia River, perhaps 10 miles northeast of Red Mountain. We decided to give it a try and thought it would blend amazingly well with Phinny Hill. Our assumptions were correct.

Each vineyard is distinctly unique - total opposites. The old vine parcel at Sagemoor is Bacchus, approaching 50 years. It gives power and complexity with a fruit tinged New World slant. The 20ish year old block at Phinny Hill, in Horse Heaven Hills, brings earthiness and elegance - decidedly Old World. Our overarching goal is a wine of complexity and finesse.

The 2017 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon comprises 50% Bacchus and 50% Phinny Hill. This blending session stands out in our memories. It was too easy. We loved the first blend - 50% of each vineyard, the typical starting point. Thinking we must be feeling lazy, we tried many other blends over a few hours but eventually returned to the first 50-50 blend. The wine didn’t even need a supporting cast of other Bordeaux varieties. It is perfect with 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. The wine was fermented for approximately 30 days with native yeasts. The wine was aged in 50% new French oak for 22 months and was bottled unfinned & unfiltered.

TASTING NOTES: AN EXPLOSIVE MEDLEY OF PURPLE & BLACK FRUIT. HUGELY AROMATIC. SECONDARY FLAVORS OF PURPLE FLOWERS, KENYAN COFFEE, SWEET CREAM & STONE. BAKING SPICES OF CLOVE, VANILLA & CINNAMON FROM NEW FRENCH OAK. MORE AUSTERE ON THE PALATE WITH SMOKE, TAR, PENCIL SHAVINGS & CEDAR. A CROSS OF HOWELL MOUNTAIN CABERNET & BORDEAUX. FIRM, GRIPPY TANNINS WITH MEDIUM-PLUS ACIDITY. FRESH, ENERGETIC & POWERFUL.

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