

chateau
TUMBLEWEED

2017 Rolling View Vineyard Merlot

Background:

We often find ourselves rooting for the underdog at Chateau Tumbleweed, and Arizona Merlot is a truly worthy cause. This grape has a bad rap, sometimes deservedly, but most often not. We think our desert state makes special Merlot that not only ripens early enough to beat the monsoons, but also isn't too jammy or overly opulent. Instead, the wines are restrained, showing more bright red fruit, earthy spice and focus. We're always hunting for more AZ Merlot, but there isn't much to be found. Thankfully, the Pierce family has been willing to share small amounts of their beautiful Bordeaux varietals with us. And thankfully, they're doing such great work in their vineyard!

Varietal Composition and Appellation/Fruit Sourcing:

Willcox AVA

100% Merlot from Rolling View Vineyard. Cochise County, AZ. 4,300 ft. elevation. Harvested Aug 11th

Sugar at harvest: 24.3 Brix

Cellar Notes:

Destemmed but not crushed to open-top, 3/4-ton bins. Lot was left ~8% whole cluster.

Cold-soaked 24 hours, then inoculated with specially selected yeasts (MT & BDX).

Hand punched 3-4 times daily.

Inoculated with Malolactic bacteria (Omega) around 7 Brix.

Pressed at dryness after 10 days skin contact.

Settled 2 days before barreling.

Aging:

Aged 11 months in 50% 2-year-old French oak barrels (Alain Fouquet Cooperage).

Twice racked. Filtered, but unfined.

Stats:

pH: 3.70

TA: 5.8 g/L

RS: <0.10%

Alcohol: 13.7%

Production: 48 cases

Drink now or cellar 5+ years

Winemaker: Joe Bechard

