

chateau TUMBLEWEED

2016 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 batches 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

99% Merlot from Rolling View Vineyard. Cochise County, AZ. 4,300 ft. elevation. Harvested Aug 20th
1% Cabernet Franc from Rolling View Vineyard. Cochise County, AZ. 4,300 ft. elevation. Harvested Aug 27th

Sugar at harvest: 25.3 Brix (24.6 on label)

Cellar Notes:

Destemmed but not crushed to open-top, 3/4-ton bins. Lot was left ~25% whole cluster.

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

Hand punched 3-4 times daily.

Inoculated with Malolactic bacteria (Omega) around 7 Brix.

Pressed at dryness after 13 days skin contact.

Settled 4 days before barreling.

Aging:

Aged 4+ months in 50% new French oak (Alain Fouquet Cooperage)

and 7 months in 100% neutral French oak barrels.

Twice racked. Filtered, but un-fined.

Stats:

pH: 3.80

TA: 5.8 g/L

RS: <0.10%

Alcohol: 14.6%

Production: 48 cases

Drink now or cellar 5+ years

Winemaker: Joe Bechard

