

chateau TUMBLEWEED

2018 Rolling View Vineyard Cabernet Franc

Background:

Every year, we pester the Pierce family to sell us a little fruit from their meticulous vineyard in Kansas Settlement. They never have much to part with, as most of their fruit goes into the production of their own wines. But we always seem to wrestle one-half to one ton of something special from their grips. We have worked with this Cabernet Franc a few times in the past, but thought we may never see it again. Lucky for us, we convinced them to part with some of this pretty fruit once more. Rolling View Vineyard has an austerity and restraint unlike its next-door neighbors – one that suits Bordeaux varietals especially well. This wine has an amazing interplay of acid and tannin, a cool dusty spice and classic Cab Franc fruit. Only one barrel produced of this geeky, but delicious wine.

Varietal Composition and Appellation/Fruit Sourcing:

Willcox AVA – Cochise County

97% Cabernet Franc from Rolling View Vineyard.

Cochise County, AZ. 4,300 ft. elevation. Harvested Aug. 25th

2% Malbec from Deep Sky Vineyard.

Cochise County, AZ. 4,300 ft. elevation. Harvested Sept. 13th

1% Malbec from Carlson Creek Vineyard.

Cochise County, AZ. 4,300 ft. elevation. Harvested Sept. 15th

Sugar at harvest: 24.2 Brix

Cellar Notes:

Destemmed but not crushed to an open-top, 1.5-ton bin.

Lot was left ~25% whole cluster. Inoculated with specially selected yeasts (MT).

Hand punched 3-4 times daily. Inoculated with Malolactic bacteria (Omega)

around 5 Brix. Pressed at dryness after 10 days skin contact.

Settled 1 day before barreling.

Aging:

Aged 5 months in 50% new French (Alain Fouquet Cooperage) and

50% neutral oak barrels. Aged another 13 months in 100% neutral oak barrels.

Thrice racked. Filtered, but unfinned.

Stats:

pH: 3.84

TA: 5.7 g/L

RS: <0.10%

Alcohol: 13.4%

Production: 24 cases

Drink now or cellar 5+ years

Winemaker: Joe Bechard

