

chateau TUMBLEWEED

2018 Sierra Bonita Vineyard Cabernet Franc

Background:

This is our first year working with fruit from Sierra Bonita Vineyard. We initially became interested in the site after tasting their Cabernet Sauvignon at a wine festival in 2012 or 2013. Turns out, their Cabernet Franc is pretty spectacular too! Because the vineyard is located in a cooler location (on the northernmost boundary of the Willcox AVA) the wines have amazing restraint, great acidity and an interesting depth of fruit. This is classic Cab Franc with a near perfect balance of spice and bright red fruit along with a great interplay of acid and tannin. This wine was meant for food and should age well over the next few years. The more we taste it, the more we feel like it might be one of the best wines of the vintage! Only two barrels produced.

Varietal Composition and Appellation/Fruit Sourcing:

Willcox AVA – Graham County

98% Cabernet Franc from Sierra Bonita Vineyard.

Graham County, AZ. 4,400 ft. elevation. Harvested Sept. 17th

2% Cabernet Franc from Rolling View Vineyard.

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

Sugar at harvest: 24.1 Brix

Cellar Notes:

Destemmed but not crushed to open-top, $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton bins.

Lot was left ~30% whole cluster.

Inoculated with specially selected yeasts (MT & BDX).

Hand punched 3-4 times daily.

Inoculated with Malolactic bacteria (Omega) around 4 Brix.

Pressed at dryness after 11 days skin contact. Settled 1 day before barreling.

Aging:

Aged 5 months in 50% 3-year-old French (LeGrand Cooperage)

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

Thrice racked. Filtered, but unfiltered.

Stats:

pH: 3.85

TA: 5.9 g/L

RS: <0.10%

Alcohol: 13.3%

Production: 48 cases

Drink now or cellar 5+ years

Winemaker: Joe Bechard

