

chateau
TUMBLEWEED

2019 Sierra Bonita Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon

Background:

Sometime around 2012 or 2013, we snuck away from a wine festival booth and tasted Sierra Bonita Vineyard's Cabernet Sauvignon for the first time. We were blown away – thinking it might have been some of the best AZ Cab we had tasted up to that point and quite possibly beyond. Since then, we'd been curious about this little vineyard; one of only a few situated north of Willcox in Graham County. This is now our second vintage working with this Cab Sauv, which has more intense notes of green spice and a more focused and intense fruit than some of its counterparts from warmer areas in Cochise County. We fermented it approximately 28% whole-cluster to add tannin, weight to the palate and additional notes of spice. Only two barrels produced.

Varietal Composition and Appellation/Fruit Sourcing:

Willcox AVA – Graham County, AZ

96% Cabernet Sauvignon from Sierra Bonita Vineyard.

Graham County, AZ, 4,400 ft. elevation. Harvested Sept. 31st

4% Cabernet Franc from Sierra Bonita Vineyard.

Graham County, AZ, 4,400 ft. elevation. Harvested Oct. 2nd

Sugar at harvest: 25.1 Brix

Cellar Notes:

Destemmed but not crushed to open-top, $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton bins. Lot was left ~28% whole cluster. Inoculated with specially selected yeasts (MT, BDX, VRB, & T73). Hand punched 3-4 times daily. Inoculated with Malolactic bacteria (Omega) around 8 Brix. Pressed at dryness after 11 days average skin contact. Settled 1 day before barreling.

Aging:

Aged 4 months in 66% 1-year-old French (Alain Fouquet and Giraud cooperages) and 33% 3-year-old Romanian (Gillet Cooperage) oak barrels. Aged 7 months in 50% 1-year-old French (Alain Fouquet Cooperage) and 50% 3-year-old Romanian (Gillet Cooperage) oak barrels. Aged another 7 months in 50% 3-year-old Romanian (Gillet Cooperage) and 50% neutral oak barrels.

Thrice racked. Filtered, but unfinned.

Stats:

pH: 3.92

TA: 5.9 g/L

RS: <0.10%

Alcohol: 13.8%

Production: 49 cases

Drink now or cellar 6+ years

Winemaker: Joe Bechard

