

chateau TUMBLEWEED

2020 Sierra Bonita Vineyard Cabernet Franc

Background:

This is just our third 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. Only two barrels produced.

Varietal Composition and Appellation/Fruit Sourcing:

Willcox AVA – Graham County, AZ

97% Cabernet Franc from Sierra Bonita Vineyard.

Graham County, AZ. 4,400 ft. elevation. Harvested on Sept. 3rd

3% Cabernet Sauvignon from Sierra Bonita Vineyard.

Graham County, AZ. 4,400 ft. elevation. Harvested Sept. 23rd

Sugar at harvest: 24.4 Brix

Cellar Notes:

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

Lot was left ~25% whole cluster.

Inoculated with specially selected yeasts (MT, BDX & T73).

Hand punched 3-4 times daily.

Inoculated with Malolactic bacteria (Omega) around 10 Brix.

Pressed at dryness after 13 days skin contact.

Settled 4 days before barreling.

Aging:

Aged 5 months in 50% new French (Giraud Cooperage) and 50% neutral oak barrels. Aged another 13 months in 100% neutral oak barrels.

Thrice racked. Filtered, but unfinned.

Stats:

pH: 3.82

TA: 5.8 g/L

RS: <0.10%

Alcohol: 13.7%

Production: 49 cases

Drink now or cellar 5+ years

Winemaker: Joe Bechard

