



Forman

2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON
2,196 cases 750ml • 73 cases 1.5L • 50 3L bottles

RIC'S VINTAGE NOTES

Going through the 2015 to 2020 vintages at Forman Vineyard, I've been wondering lately "what has made them such stand-outs?" One reoccurring theme comes to mind. A French theory suggests that wines of stature and true representation from a good vineyard must come from vines that are at least 15 years old. Voila! The original vineyard was planted in 1979, but alas, succumbed to the old phylloxera susceptible rootstock, AXR. By 1996 the whole vineyard had to be replanted. While the soil was, and still is, the ultimate in perfection for growing grapes – deep gravel, on sloping curves and facing southwest, only the rootstock failed. So, with resistant rootstock and even better clones of the Bordeaux varieties the replant in 1997 stands now at 23 years old. By the 2015 vintage the vines were 17 years old – just coming into the state of true character – a showcase of a great vineyard planted to the most coveted clones available.

The vineyard now has fully mature vines planted in an extremely special place and we have been blessed with some spectacular vintages lately. I love all of them.

Many factors have come together, climate, age of vines, new cellar techniques and so many things to achieve the finest wines of my 55-year career.

While the 2015 - 2017 vintages are perhaps some of the most sophisticated and elegant wines in the line-up of the new vintages, the 2018 - 2020 are slightly different. The elegance and hallmark features of the vineyard are there just in a slightly more forward and powerful way. The 2018 vintage, harvested September 24 - October 18, with an average 26.4 Brix (very ripe) was destined to be special. It is a slightly bolder offspring but definitely from the same family. It possesses a very deep strength while still retaining refinement and complexity.

TASTING NOTES

Right from the get-go excitement is created. The purity of color in a wafting rich complex of aromas entice and compel one to take the first taste. Such a plush nose is very inviting. Up front the Forman identity of spice, cedar and violet perfume is so evident. All of the four varieties seem to be screaming for recognition and indeed they get it in this one.

Mouth filling flavors create a very pleasing, exiting, and powerful impression. This is pretty dense stuff but with delicious complexity as well. The balance of fruit, wood and bouquet is incredible. This is like a young athlete ready to perform, it's very alive and will win many races as it develops. A keeper they say.

Stats:

Harvest September 24 - October 18, 2018

Average Brix at harvest 26.4

Blend – 76% Cabernet Sauvignon;

15% Cabernet Franc; 6% Petite Verdot; 3% Merlot

Aged: 22 months; 60% new,

40% once used Bordeaux barrels

Alcohol 14.8%

Total Acidity 0.55 g/100 ml

pH 3.79

Glucose/Fructose 0.03/100ml (dry)

Malolactic: Positive

Bottled June 22, 2020