



2017 | PROTAGONIST CABERNET SAUVIGNON

COLUMBIA VALLEY A.V.A.
DIONYSUS VINEYARD

Dark and powerful fruit and lovely oak introduce this reserve wine. Classic ripe Cabernet Sauvignon aromas fill this richly perfumed wine. Fragrant currant and black cherry, dark chocolate and sweet French oak tones harmonize with mineral and spice tones in this powerful reserve old vine Cabernet. Long flavors and powerful structure come from low yielding vines and fully extracted winestyle. Fragrant and able to delight now, it will age for years to come, like the many vintages before.

VINTAGE

The 2017 is another stunning vintage at Bookwalter. Despite smoke haze during harvest, because of careful testing our wines' natural character was preserved and classic flavor extraction to ideal reserve proportions was achieved. 2017 yielded an average crop which ripened early in the season. We lowered our yields and by harvest the vintage was measuring abundant color and tannin. Our vintage portfolio carries a volume and weight that matched our house style of rich and smooth age worthy reds. Spring's early budbreak and flowering in June at Dionysus Vineyard was followed by a warm month of heat creating small cluster yields. Summer temperatures were hotter than average again with many July and August days over 100°F. Verasion began in early August and completed quickly, a hallmark of great vintages. Our well managed vineyard blocks had fruit shaded by a few west side leaves keeping fruit from sunburn. We picked our fruit perfectly ripe at 125 days of ripening.

WINEMAKING

The block Cabernets were hand sorted on the vine closely then picked by hand the first weeks of October and again sorted at the winery going into tanks. We mixed by pump over and punch down for three weeks. The vintage was measured for anthocyanins and tannins daily allowing us a perfect balance of extractables to build into our favorite tanks for these reserves. Fermentation completed in new French oak puncheons. We aged on lees reductively developing savory tones complimentary to the powerful fruit. After 20 months, we selected each puncheon for this reserve bottling. We then blended and filtered for purity and aging stability. This rich wine will age for a decade or two, enjoyable with a host of foods throughout those seasons.

APPELLATIONS & VINEYARDS

Columbia Valley 100% | 100% Dionysus Vineyard

FINAL BLEND

95% Cabernet Sauvignon
5% Syrah

AGING

20 months in
new and used
French puncheons

CASES PRODUCED 1,139 6-pack cases/750mL

TECHNICAL DATA Bottled: August 7, 2019 • Alcohol: 14.8% by volume • pH: 3.85 • TA: 5.5 • RS: 0.5%

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