



2020

*Cabernet Franc*

VIRGINIA

**Varieties**

100% Cabernet Franc

**AVA**

Virginia

**Vineyard**

100% Shenandoah

**Harvest Date**

September 2020

**Fermentation & Aging**

Stainless steel fermenters

67% New French oak

33% Neutral oak

20 Months

**Technical Data**

Brix at Harvest: 24

pH: 3.67

TA: 5.9 grams/L

Alc: 11.9%

RS: 0.06%

Bottled: June 7, 2022

Cases Produced: 75

**VINEYARD NOTES**

All of the fruit for this vintage comes from our vineyards at Shenandoah. Here, the Blue Ridge Mountains provide a rain shadow for the valley, which means rain coming from the west is blocked, causing a very dry environment for the growing season. The soil is mostly made up of limestone, and the vineyard site is on southeastern facing slopes at an optimal elevation. The result is deeply concentrated flavors from perfectly ripe grape clusters

**WINEMAKING NOTES**

All of our cabernet franc is hand harvested and transferred to the winery for cooling prior to de-stemming without crushing. A 48-hour cold maceration prior to fermentation helps build mouth feel and color without extracting too much tannin. No commercial yeast strains are used, as we prefer to create a starter from its own juice during the cold maceration process. We conduct pump-overs twice daily throughout fermentation; after it's complete we continue to extend the maceration for several weeks with daily pump-overs.

After pressing and settling, the wine is transferred to French oak barrels, of which 67% are new oak. Malolactic fermentation occurs during barrel aging. After the malolactic is complete the wine is racked and aged for a total of 20 months before being bottled unfiltered.

**WINEMAKER'S NOTES**

Cabernet franc has consistently grown very well in Virginia, offering wines of medium to full body with a wide array of fruit and savory flavors. In our Shenandoah vineyards, the grapes achieve the typical cherry, tobacco, and bell pepper notes while retaining sharp acidity to complete the well balanced wines. The 2020 vintage is made from 100% cabernet franc, amplifying all the wonderful qualities of this variety while maintaining the medium-bodied balance that makes this wine so approachable. Ready to drink now, but can age in proper cellar conditions for about 4-6 years.