

2018 Meritage



Cabernet Franc 45% /
Cabernet Sauvignon 28% / Merlot 27%
Cabernet Franc Clone 331
Pyrénées-Atlantiques, France
Cabernet Sauvignon Clone 169
Bordeaux, France
Merlot Clone 181 Bordeaux, France

Alcohol 15.6%
Residual Sugar 0.4 g/L
Total Acidity 6.0 g/L
pH 3.81
Brix 25
Cases Produced 780
Released 2021
SKU 160895

VANESSA
VINEYARD

Flavour Profile

Our Meritage is a Cabernet-dominant blend of Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The nose balances red plum, cassis, cedar, and dried herbs. The palate is elegant and full bodied with notes of ripe raspberry, blueberry, savoury herbs, and a hint of smoke with a long rich finish.

Growing Conditions

A long, moderate growing season started on schedule, yet with warmer than average spring temperatures. Cooler summer temperatures led into particularly warm autumn days with cool evenings. The results: an early bud break, increased crop sizes and slow ripening that allowed the fruit to fully mature with exciting flavour development for the reds in this vintage. Harvest began right on time, with our harvest for reds finishing in early November. Total heat units for 2018 at Vanessa were recorded at 1730.5 Growing Degree Days, similar to the previous year. The prolonged and mild 2018 growing season gives this vintage unique character and exceptional quality.

Winemaking

Crafted from only 100% estate grown and hand-picked fruit. The grapes were destemmed and underwent a gentle crush before small-batch fermentation and hand punch down to maximize flavour and extraction. This vintage is almost entirely comprised of free run juice with only a very small quantity of pressed juice added to balance the tannins. Each varietal was individually fermented, and barrel aged for 8 months. The small lots were then carefully blended, and the final assemblage was aged 12 additional months in American and French oak of which 40% were new barrels. Beautiful integration of the soil minerality gives the wine exceptional character and quality. Only 31 barrels produced.