



## 2018 ROSÉ

*At the foot of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, nature is at once graceful and fierce. Early Mountain wines are made here through a combination of ingenuity and true grit. We gently tend to every vine so the wine that emerges from the cellar is a clear descendant of the fruit at harvest — a unique wine that respects its heritage while embracing evolution and adventure. **Virginian through and through.***

**Blend:** 65% Merlot, 26% Cab Franc, 7% Syrah, 2% Petit Verdot

**Winemaker Note:** We continue to ferment block by block to understand precisely what we get (and want) from each. The 2018 is close to 100% grown, picked and pressed for rosé. Merlot and Cabernet Franc predominate the blend, bringing fresh fruit (Merlot) and an herbal quality (Franc); while the Quaker Run Syrah rounds out the palate and provides a savory note. The 2018 vintage allowed us to create a textural wine, that is supported by the bright acidity of the fruit.

**Wine Description:** The pale, salmon color primes us for the strawberries, white peaches and floral aromas and flavors of this wine. The acidity brings a brightness to the fruit and the wine lingers with a pleasant citrus pith character.

**Vineyard Block (100% Estate):** Early Mountain Vineyards, Quaker Run Vineyards

**Vintage Description:** The 2018 vintage was an eventful one! After early springtime warmth, rainfall during bloom created lighter and looser clusters with a light fruit-set as vines also naturally balanced themselves from higher yields in 2017, a factor that assisted ripening through the summer. Spring and summer of 2018 were the wettest on record though the rains tended to drive in short bursts and vineyards with well-drained soils were able to respond well. Heat events in July and August drove ripeness and the lighter sets that were a concern in the spring helped drive earlier ripening and healthy clusters. Fruit for rosé was harvested from mid-to-late August, with a high level of quality in good vineyard sites.

**Clone/Rootstock:** Merlot 15, 101-14; Merlot 15, 3309; Cabernet Franc 312, 101-14; Syrah 877, 101-14; Syrah 174, 101-14

### TECHNICAL:

**Bottled:** 2.14.2019

**Cases produced:** 1,450

**Yeast:** Ambient and Cultured

**Alcohol:** 12.1%

**pH:** 3.353

**TA:** 6.10 g/L

**RS:** 0.60 g/L

**SRP:** \$25



EARLY  
MOUNTAIN