



EARLY MOUNTAIN

2019 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.***

Accolades: 2017, 2018 3/3 Stars "Exceptional" - Washington Post

Blend: 76% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, 4.5% Syrah, 4.5% Malbec, 3% Petit Verdot

Winemaker Note: We continue to ferment block by block to understand precisely what we get (and want) from each. In 2019, we build upon what we have learned over the years from both our farming and fermenting, and we continue to test hypotheses with small, experimental lots. Notably, we are working with early picked Petit Verdot, expanding whole cluster - cold maceration on certain lots, and pushing forward with more ambient fermentations. The result is a continuation of our stylistic troika of fruit, herbs, and minerality that is more layered than in years past. Merlot and Cabernet Franc dominate the blend, bringing fresh fruit (Merlot) and an herbal quality (Franc); while the Syrah, Malbec and Petit Verdot round out the palate and provide a savory note. 2019 offers a bit more density than we have on average, making for a wine of both breadth and precise structure.

Wine Description: The pale, salmon color primes us for the strawberries, white peaches, blood orange and herbal aromas of this wine. The acidity matched with the texture brings a freshness to the fruit and the wine lingers with pleasant citrus pith character.

In the Vineyard: *2019 was an excellent vintage with balanced whites and reds with ripe intensity and richness. The season began early, with picking for sparkling at the very beginning of August, resulting from a moderately early budbreak. While this notably early start to the vintage was psychologically challenging, the fruit was well-balanced and we're excited to see how it develops in the cellar.*

It is understandable to compare 2019 to 2017, however yields were more typical and balanced in 2019, compared to high yielding 2017. We were able to apply the learnings from the very ripe 2017 vintage to our farming and picking decisions in 2019, which often led us to pick blocks earlier; and rather than simply pursuing sugar ripeness, we have been able to farm and pick based on phenological ripeness and aromatic complexity.

Vineyard Block: Early Mountain Vineyards, Quaker Run Vineyards, Capstone Vineyard, Glen Anne Vineyard

Clone/Rootstock: Merlot 15, 101-14; Merlot 15, 3309; Cabernet Franc 312, 101-14; Syrah 877, 101-14; Syrah 174, 101-14, Malbec 596, RG, Malbec 598, RG; Petit Verdot 400

Technical: Bottled: 2/26/20 Cases produced: 2245 Yeast: Ambient and Cultured

Alcohol: 12.5% pH: 3.40 TA: 5.4 g/L RS: 0.68 g/L