



EARLY MOUNTAIN

2018 Eluvium

*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: 71% Merlot, 29% Petit Verdot

SRP: \$55

Winemaker Note: Quaker Run Merlot stars in Eluvium, grown in both the East and West Blocks on the slope. From some of our oldest vines, this Merlot contributes density and aromatic purity; presence and persistence with fine grain tannin. Petit Verdot in the blend contributes structure, depth, and power. 2018 was a challenging vintage, with a great deal more rain than normal, but older vines on rock filled mountain slopes allowed us to make a small amount of Eluvium. Though our production was cut by more than 50%, we are proud of the wine and the fact that we can make an Eluvium even under challenging conditions. 2018 will seem lacey and almost ethereal compared to the powerhouse vintages that flank it, but it can be appreciated for its layers of flavor and aromatic complexity. It also has the benefit of softer structure and can be enjoyed earlier without mouth puckering tannins. While we look to the ripest vintages to age the longest in our cellars, I think we will be surprised by how gracefully this wine ages.

Description: On the nose the fruits are red and floral, layered with bing cherry, and black raspberry accentuated by mint, cedar and wood spice. On the palate the flavors echo the aromas; The tannins are present but subtle and playing a supporting role, rather than pushing to the front. On release it is surprisingly integrated and ready to drink, without the coaxing necessary for bigger, brooding vintages.

Aging / Cellaring: Aged 17 months in French barrique, 35% new and a year in bottle prior to release.

Aeration recommended. Should develop and drink well from 2021-2027 if properly cellared.

In the Vineyard:

The 2018 vintage was an eventful one! Early springtime warmth resulted in no major frost event. Rainfall during bloom created lighter and looser clusters, which became helpful later in the season. On a whole, fruit-set was light, both from bloom-time weather and vines naturally balancing 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 through the deluge. 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, a benefit given the harvest rain. Our white wines were harvested from mid-to-late August, with a high level of quality in good vineyard sites.

Vineyard Blocks: Quaker Run Vineyard (Merlot and Petit Verdot), Glenn Anne Petit Verdot

Technical: Cases produced: 208 Bottled: January 15, 2020

Yeast: Ambient Alcohol: 13.3% pH: 3.75

TA: 5.1 g/L RS: Dry