



EARLY MOUNTAIN

2020 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: 90 pts Wine Advocate (2019 v.)

Blend: 71% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, 10% Malbec, 7% Petit Verdot, 1% Syrah

Winemaker Note: We continue to ferment block by block to understand precisely what we get (and want) from each. In 2020, we further embraced some of the results of our small batch experiments, notably working with early picked Petit Verdot, which replaces our diminishing Syrah and provides similar depth of color and aroma. The wine continues to evolve with these experiments, though it is a subtle shift that is barely perceptible year over year. This vintage, there is a bit more of the herbal citrus interplay that ripples through and gives the wine added energy. Merlot and Cabernet Franc continue to lead the blend, bringing fresh fruit (Merlot) and herbal quality (Franc); while the Malbec and Petit Verdot round out the palate with darker fruit in front and a savory note in back. 2020 is a return to our "classic" style, fresh, energetic and thirst quenchingly pure.

Wine Description: The pale, salmon color primes us for the strawberries, white peaches, red grapefruit and herbal aromas of this wine. The acidity matches the texture and brings freshness to the fruit, and the wine lingers with pleasant citrus pith character. It is light on its feet, but with a delicate intensity that lingers. The wine is subtly layered with flavor, but it doesn't demand the spotlight, secure in its ability to get you to take another sip.

In the Vineyard: *The growing season in Virginia was dynamic to say the least, adding to the chaotic nature of the year as a whole. Despite an early budbreak followed by frost risk in late April and early May, Early Mountain was lucky to avoid the worst of it with only a Petit Manseng block and some lower areas of Chardonnay impacted.*

The first half of the growing season was relatively dry and quite hot in June and July. Late July and early August brought a lot of moisture that was very challenging, but things dried out a bit heading into harvest. We ended up in a dance with the Atlantic, as tropical systems waltzed through every ten days for two months. Once again, we were lucky to be spared the worst of the weather, and we emerged at the end of harvest with a cellar full of high quality 2020 wines. In the spirit of every vintage being different than every other in our state, 2020 was unique in that the first half produced lighter wines with high acid and the second half brought riper, more classic wines.

Vineyard Block: Early Mountain Vineyards, Quaker Run Vineyards, Capstone Vineyard, Glen Anne Vineyard, Russ Mountain 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: 2/18/21 ████ Cases produced: 2600 Yeast: Ambient and Cultured

Alcohol: 12.0%

pH: 3.30

TA: 5.8 g/L

RS: 1.47 g/L