



## 2020 CHARACTER RED

### HARVEST & VITICULTURE REPORT

From a winemaking perspective 2020 was an exceptional vintage in the South Okanagan. Early spring started out colder than average but by mid-to-late June, temperatures were at or above average. Following a summer that began a little later than usual, September was very warm resulting in our vineyards seeing a smaller than average crop with smaller grape bunches. The vines benefited from a dry September, with a smaller berry size contributing to concentrated flavours. The warm weather in late September and early October enabled the grapes to reach ideal phenolic ripeness, with our white varieties all handpicked and fermenting in tank by the first week of October. Following a warm start to fall, the weather turned and we saw a rare snowfall and a freezing event in the valley on October 23rd. Fortunately, the majority of our red grapes were harvested by this time. From a temperature perspective, the 2020 vintage was the 5th warmest in growing degree days in the last 2 decades. Overall, the 2020 season delivered exceptional quality grapes of a smaller berry size with abundant ripe fruit and beautifully enhanced flavour profiles. It is a year where the quality will be talked about for years to come, producing wines that are cellar worthy.

### WINEMAKING

The grapes for this fresh, yet full-bodied red wine, were sourced mainly from our historic Golden Mile Bench estate. It is complemented with fruit from several premium nearby vineyards including Stone's Throw, adjacent to the Black Sage Bench, and our vineyard manager's own property on Road 8. The blend includes a unique clone of Merlot originally from Italy, from Block 13 of our historic vineyard, first planted in 1968. These grapes are later ripening, and the Old Vine fruit brings a wonderful intensity and spiciness to this wine. The grapes were all handpicked, then destemmed and gently fermented in our Italian Ganimede fermenters until the desired extraction was achieved. Following pressing, the lots were blended to age for 8 months on fine lees in 75% French and 25% American oak. A pleasingly complex blend with a superb depth of character and vitality.

### TASTING NOTES

Savoury and utterly delicious, this vintage of our popular red blend has inviting aromas of clove and nutmeg, with hints of espresso, white pepper, and blueberry. A full, rich palate of pepper, blue fruits, and dark chocolate, ends with light toasty spice. A young but substantial wine, that pairs well with a grilled fig and prosciutto flatbread or fresh figs stuffed with blue cheese.

PRICE: \$18.99 (BC+TAX)

CSPC: 158311

UPC: 626990112228

<b>Harvest Date:</b>	October, 2020
<b>Bottling Date:</b>	June 9, 2021
<b>Grape Variety:</b>	Italian Merlot, Syrah, Petit Verdot, and Malbec
<b>Vegan:</b>	Yes
<b>Aging:</b>	8 months
<b>Oak:</b>	75% French, 25% American
<b>Ageability:</b>	Enjoy now or cellar up to 5 years
<b>Alcohol:</b>	14.1%
<b>Residual Sugar:</b>	0.26 g/l
<b>pH:</b>	3.72
<b>Total Acidity:</b>	6.7 g/l
<b>Brix at Harvest:</b>	24.3 average
<b>Availability:</b>	Wine shop, Bench Club, online, grocery stores, BCLDB, private liquor stores, restaurants



### FOUNDATION WINES

Our Roots Run Deep, with wines founded in great quality and value, born of this unique place in the Okanagan Valley.

