

# 2017 MALBEC

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**AVA:** *Rogue Valley, Oregon*

## VINEYARD DATA

**Source:** 2Hawk estate, Block 5, Malbec Clone FPS09

**Soil Profile:** Darow silty loam transitioning to Carney clay loam underneath alluvial shale

## WINEMAKING DATA

**Composition:** 81% Malbec, 19% Block 8 (co-fermented Merlot & Cab Franc)

**Yeast:** Wild

**Aging:** 17 months in 13% new, 57% 2-year-old French oak

## AWARDS

International Wine Report – 93 points

BevX.com – 93 points; 4 stars

*Wine Enthusiast* – 91 points

Harvest Challenge – Gold; 90 points

SavorNW Wine Awards – Silver

## VINTAGE

2017 was a lesson in patience coming off record snowfall. What started as a normal, relatively cool spring ended on a warm trend that continued until mid-July, when Mother Nature reminded us of her fickleness. August turned out to be one of the coolest in the last twenty years, allowing our fruit to ripen slowly and evenly.

*Continues on back ...*

## HARVEST DATA

**Dates:** September 29 & October 12, 2017

**Brix:** 22.9 **pH:** 3.72 **TA:** 5.16 g/L

## BOTTLING DATA

**Production:** 398 cases

**Bottled:** August 7, 2018

**Alc.** 13.3% **pH:** 3.75 **TA:** 5.88 g/L

**FSO<sub>2</sub>:** 39 mg/L



Fall continued the cool trend, and—thanks to our perfectly balanced crop load and expert water stress management—we began harvest on September 8, a week later than anticipated. As harvest progressed in unseasonably cool conditions, we became so excited by the flavor development we tasted in the vineyard that we delayed harvest of many blocks until the last possible minute. Our final fruit came in on November 2 with superb ripeness in exquisite condition.

## TASTING NOTES

The exquisite 2017 vintage gave us our first estate-grown Malbec. As in previous vintages, our goal with this wine was to produce a supple, fruit-driven style of Malbec that can be enjoyed while relatively young. To that end, we blended in a small portion of our estate-grown Merlot and Cabernet Franc in an effort to soften the Malbec without sacrificing short-term cellaring potential. This wine has Malbec's typically dense scarlet color and subtle wild jasmine-tinged hints on the nose to go along with the abundant blueberry, blackberry, pencil shaving, cedar, and red licorice aromas. There is a cascade on the palate as flavors of ripe black cherry, dark plum, and grilled blood orange unfold from the sip through the mid-palate. On the finish, find ripe berry, roasted coffee, caramel, wet pine needle, and black pepper as the wine's acidity lifts to a plush end. This robust young wine will age nicely in the near term (through 2021), with another two to five years of enjoyment following. Think duck breast in black truffle cream with tarragon, rosemary, and grilled pears.



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