

# MAISON NOIRE

## Cabernet Franc Home Block 2019

### Tasting notes

#### Winemaking:

The Cabernet Franc grapes, grown on our own Home Block vineyard, were hand picked in mid-April in great condition.

Destemmed and lightly crushed, they were fermented in a small open vat following a short cold maceration. Plunged 2 to 3 times daily to gently extract the flavours during fermentation, the temperature were closely monitored to ensure a preservation of the fruit characters while building up a soft tannic structure. Once the ferment got dry, the must went through a 10 extra days of maceration prior to being drained and pressed into 2 to 3 years old French oak barrels, giving an elegant complexity and adding refined tanins. The barrels were racked and returned several times during the 18 months ageing, bringing a natural clarification prior to be lightly fined, filtered and bottled in December 2020.

#### Result:

This wine takes the consumer right to the Loire Valley banks, where this single varietal wine style shines so well.

It is a journey through the home veggie garden, from a bed of raspberries and strawberries down to rich earth, wild flowers, fragrant herbs and ripe tomatoes; it then brings you inside "La Maison" with flavours of dark chocolate, cinnamon and tea leaves. The wine is medium bodied with a great acidity that carries these complex flavours alongside a sharp yet subtle tannic structure and a graceful lengthy finish. Great with the finer cuts of meats - rack of lamb or duck dishes - or with seared Tuna in Teriyaki. Optimum drinking time is 2021 - 2025.

#### Analysis at bottling:

pH=3.69

TA=4.97

Alc.=12.23% Vol.

### Vintage conditions

#### 2018/2019:

Following a rather dry winter, early spring was very wet up to bud burst, then typically windy with a late frost that caused patchy damage in exposed areas. With a fairly wet early summer and high disease pressure, fungi protection's planning and grass / canopy control was paramount to keep hopes of a high quality harvest. Temperatures rose after Christmas but a couple of very wet events put more Botrytis pressure on Coastal vineyards. Late summer and early autumn weather conditions were optimal and lead to a great, yet stressful harvest. Some hand sorting during picking got rid of the Botrytis patches and the overall quality for this vintage ended up very high with great flavours and levels of concentrations across the board.

## Reviews (extract)

- **Michael Cooper (4 stars)**: "Ruby hued, it is a fragrant, medium to full-bodied wine with ripe, berryish, spicy, slightly nutty flavours, oak complexity and supple tannins. A very harmonious red, it's already very approachable."
- **Yvonne Lorkin (3.5 stars)**: "This is Cabernet Franc crafted in a softer, more restrained style than most with fine-grained astringency in the mid-palate. Super-savoury and stitched together with dried herbs, hints of iodine and spice, it's an easy-breezy, smooth sip for those late afternoon slabs of blue cheese."