

MAISON NOIRE

Syrah Home Block 2018

Tasting notes

Winemaking:

The Syrah grapes, clone Hermitage on Riparia, grown on our single vineyard, were hand harvested in great condition in early April 2018.

The grapes were destemmed and left on skin contact with a subtle blend of French Oak for cold maceration at temperatures below 8°C for a few days, until the ferment showed signs of activity. It was then heated while gentle method of extraction (delestage and plunges) were used to homogenise the batch. Inoculation and plunges followed until the ferment got dry, then left on skins for a further 2 weeks. It was pressed into seasoned French barrels and aged for over 20 months prior to being filtered with no fining and bottled in March 2020.

Result:

This is a clean fruit driven wine, round and complex with a greeting of currants and violets. Tapenade, summer fruit berries, fresh figs and allspice follow in the mid-palate, with a pleasant structure of soft integrated tannins. Beautiful lengthy finish.

Will cellar well until 2025, slowly developing tertiary aromas of cedar and port.

Analysis at bottling:

pH=3.57

TA=5.09 g/l

Alc=11.91% Vol.

RS=0.19 g/l

Vintage conditions

2017/2018: A fairly normal winter regarding temperature and rainfall was followed by a very warm and dry September, that pushed growth very rapidly in early spring, dotted with the odd frost. It was followed by wet patches in October, then very dry until Christmas time. This pattern was perfect for growth but led to a very high pressure for Powdery Mildew. Canopy work, thinning and a strong spraying program were key to ensure good quality at maturity. This was helped by a rather dry and sunny summer, but followed by a few heavy downpours around harvest time (early March and late April), so picking planning was paramount to pick at optimum quality.

Reviews (extract)

- **Yvonne Lorkin (4 stars):** "the Home Block is intensely floral and fruit-driven, laced with baking spices and kissed with liquorice. The acidity is frisky-fresh, the tannins soft and velvety and the finish a combination of delicate style and delicious length"
- **Sam Kim - Wine Orbit (4½ stars):** "Pristine and fragrant, the bouquet shows Black Doris plum, sweet raspberry, violet, game and toasted nut characters. The palate delivers elegant weight and bright fruit flavours combined with silky mouthfeel and flowing texture, finishing long and refined"