

Red Palette 2017

Technical Information:

Appellation	VQA Niagara Peninsula
Vineyard(s)	Lakeshore Farm and June's Vineyard
Grape Variety(ies)	Cabernet Franc (53%) Merlot (37%)
Brix at Harvest	Average of 23°
Alcohol Content	13%
Residual Sugar	5 grams/litre
Total Production	1044cases



TASTING & FOOD NOTES

The best qualities of each variety are captured in this artfully assembled blend. Medium deep ruby hue with richly satisfying notes of raspberry compôte, cherry, licorice and bitter chocolate. Fresh and well balanced with rich mouth-feel and complexity. Soft tannins characterize the elegant structure of the wine. Enjoy alongside white and red meats, grilled, roasted or smoked. Also excellent with red pasta, pizza and mushroom dishes. This wine appreciates aeration so use a nice big glass and enjoy over two days.

WINEMAKING NOTES

The grapes were harvested from our Lakeshore and June's vineyards in the Creek Shores sub-appellation of the Niagara Peninsula. Merlot was harvested first followed by Cabernet Franc a few weeks later in early November. Both varieties were fermented and aged separately in stainless steel for three months. The wines were then blended, moved back into stainless steel for further resting and flavour development. The wine was bottled in early May 2018.

VINTAGE NOTES

The winter of 2016/2017 was again mild, yet a cool spring delayed bud-burst. Once the summer finally started it was relatively cool and rainy. Luckily September saw full sun and heat warm the vines to complete phenolic ripeness. Harvest started late in mid-September, commencing with Pinot and Chardonnay for sparkling and continued with other whites and early-ripening reds. The beautiful weather lasted well into the fall, allowing for long hang time for later ripening varieties. Overall yields were moderate to high with very high quality throughout. The wines are characterized by both freshness and structure across the portfolio, with potential for enjoyable early consumption or the opportunity to cellar wines for the medium-to-long-term.