



SCHEID

VINEYARDS



TASTING NOTES

2012 CLARET RESERVE

Although we love all the wines we craft, we hold a special place in our hearts for the Scheid Claret Reserve. Our Bordeaux blend receives an inordinate amount of attention, from the specially selected vineyard rows to the careful sorting of the hand-harvested fruit to the finest oak barrels. It is an opportunity for Winemaker Dave Nagengast to use the tools of a vintage to craft a full-bodied, richly flavored wine that is integrated in perfect harmony. Blending noble Bordeaux varieties, Dave has total freedom to choose the best of the best, influenced only by the unique characteristics of the vintage. Our 2012 Claret is a sophisticated assemblage characterized by concentrated aromas of blackberries and rich flavors of black currants with notes of tobacco, dark chocolate and bacon smoke. The dense flavors and balanced tannins of this full-bodied wine integrate perfectly for a long, layered finish. Drinking beautifully now, the 2012 is built for cellaring and will continue to develop over the next decade or more.

VINEYARDS

The vineyard rows for each of the varieties are chosen and marked at the beginning of the farm year, but we hedge our bets by designating far more for the Claret program than we actually need. These rows are given first-class attention throughout the growing season. Each variety is handpicked at optimum ripeness and maturity and several different lots of each variety are made, often from different vineyards. This gives us a range of options and the luxury of choosing only the very best for inclusion in the final Reserve Claret.

VINTAGE

The 2012 growing season was picture-perfect. The spring months were temperate and uneventful, with no significant frost threats and ideal temperatures. Cool nights and overcast mornings followed by breezy afternoons made the summer months perfect for even ripening and good flavor development. Excellent harvest-time conditions allowed us to let the grapes hang until optimal ripeness was achieved.

WINEMAKING

Upon delivery to the winery, the grapes were destemmed, crushed, and fermented in small lots in open top fermenters. Over the next two weeks, the firm cap of skins and seeds that bubble up and form on the surface during red fermentation was gently punched down three times a day, allowing the color and the phenols from the skins to be transferred to the wine, resulting in rich and complex tannins. The varietals were barreled separately into small oak barrels and aged 30 months before bottling. Throughout the aging process, each barrel was checked weekly and only the most highly rated barrels made it into the finished blend. The final selection was bottled unfiltered to preserve the tannin structure and aromatics.

VARIETIES

50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Petit Verdot, 22% Malbec, 5% Cabernet Franc

VINEYARDS

30% San Lucas, 30% San Antonio Valley, 36% Hames, 4% Monterey

APPELLATION

Monterey

HARVEST DATES

September 22 – October 4, 2012

HARVEST BRIX

Average of 25.0°

ALCOHOL

13.9%

PH

3.57

TA

6.0 g/L

AGING

30 months in 50% American, 35% European, and 15% French oak, 50% new

BOTTLING DATE

August 19, 2015

CASES

315

PRICE

\$72

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