



Wine Profile
Moone-Tsai 2016 Black List XXII

Tasting Notes

Talk about Trick or Treat! The release of this 22nd edition of our coveted Black List selections on Halloween-2020 is neither unplanned nor coincidental. Deeply ruby red in hue, and offering an expressive nose redolent of black fruits, baking spices and sweet oak, this 100% Cabernet Sauvignon shows up like the veritable wolf disguised in sheep's clothing. The attack registers immediately with a focused, frontal impact -- delivering quick, direct hits of blackberry, black plum, with hints of cedar shavings, cardamom, and graphite. Aged 20 months in 42% new French Oak, the wine's chalky tannins and enlivening acidity make for a decidedly assertive wine: big and brawny with a borderline unruliness that suggests some additional bottle aging (another 9-12 months to start) would be a pretty good idea. Brooding, aggressive, and menacingly muscular, this striking wine is reminiscent of a composite featuring the likes of the NFL's three greatest linebackers, whose on-the-field brilliance, force and fury revolutionized the game going forward: the NY Giants #56, Lawrence Taylor; the Baltimore Ravens #52, Ray Lewis, and the Pittsburgh Steelers #58, Jack Lambert. Indeed, while the big fella who comes to mind would not be my idea of a prom date for either of my daughters; this notable Cabernet will make for a fine accompaniment to an exquisitely prepared bone-in rib-eye (just salt, pepper, and a pat of butter on mine...please!) enjoyed tableside with your favorite dining partner.

The grapes that made this wine were grown in an east-facing hillside Howell Mountain vineyard perched 2100 feet above the Napa Valley floor, located just outside of the Rancho. The terraced vineyard is planted on an extreme slope, producing thick-skinned clusters capable of creating a wine with intensity, structure, elegance, and weight.

Winemaker: Philippe Melka, Bordeaux-bred (*Chateau Haut Brion, Petrus*) and – heralded by Robert Parker as one of the top nine winemakers in the world. *“Where possible, I will minimize winemaking techniques in the cellar so I can create a wine that tells the story of the vineyard. In the end, it must be about the fruit.”*

Wine Facts

Varietal Composition:	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Vineyards:	Las Posadas – Howell Mountain
Production:	150 cases
Harvest Date:	Oct 9 th , 2016
Cooperage:	Twenty months: 42% new French oak: St. Martin, Fr. Freres, Taransaud
Bottle Date:	June 25, 2018
Release Date:	October 31, 2020

For more information: Visit www.moonetsai.com, or contact info@moonetsai.com, or via 707.265.6782
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