



MOONE + TSAI

**Wine Profile**

**Moone Tsai 2018 Black List XXVI**

**Tasting Notes**

The “textbook” growing season that marked 2018 allowed winemaker Philippe Melka to craft an array of exceptional wines that bear our lionized emblem. Starting with abundant rainfall in February, followed by a moderately late bud break and flowering; gloriously ideal conditions through the spring allowed for a plentiful and even fruit set, followed by a mild summer and fall. Under these nearly ideal conditions, heavenly hangtime allowed the fruit to accumulate delightful flavor complexity with oh-so-gradual increases in sugar to yield a crop marked by exceptional quality and quantity.

Deeply ruby red in hue, this gorgeous 100% Cabernet teases invitingly with heady aromas of black fruit, baking spices and sweet cedar shavings. The reveal is no less restrained, with an attack that eagerly displays an intention to beguile and deliver. Rich and luxuriously concentrated, the wine expresses purpose and vigor, replete with offerings of blackberry, boysenberry, and plum, along with hints of clove and sweet oak. Silky tannins, and a delicate acidity add lovely texture to the full mouth that characterizes this wine, which can simply be described as deeply delicious and sumptuously sexy. While many potential analogies come to mind, we invite you to come up with your own fantasy comparisons to complete the vision. As many may say: *“To each, his/her own.”* To which we are inclined to add: ***Glory, Glory...Hallelujah!***

In addition to fine Pritchard Hill fruit, the backbone for this 100% Cabernet features heritage grape varieties, including eleven different clones of heirloom Cabernet Sauvignon vines. The twenty micro-blocks that mark this unique parcel are located on a small sliver in the Yountville AVA, adjacent to Stags Leap. Situated on a gradual, western facing slope, the volcanic soils that characterize this block are comprised of gravelly alluvial deposits, similar to those found on nearby Pritchard Hill. Layered on top are sandstone bedrock, interspersed with remnants of the fluvial floodplain that worked tirelessly for centuries to create the verdant and fertile basin of the Napa Valley below.

**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:	Yountville, Pritchard Hill, St. Helena
Production:	220 cases
Harvest Date:	October 6 - 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2018
Cooperage:	18-months: 44% new French oak: St. Martin, Fr. Freres, Taransaud
Bottle Date:	June 23, 2020
Release Date:	March 1, 2022

**For more information**

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