



MOONE • TSAI

Wine Profile

Moone-Tsai 2013 Black List XI

Tasting Notes

With its deep-set, ruby-red hues of scarlet, the stage is set for this sultry 100% merlot of unmistakable Howell Mountain origin. Flavors of ripe, blackberry and black cherry assert themselves with additional hints of cedar, cocoa nib, and toasted coriander beckoning. With a lightly chiseled muscularity, the wine's grainy tannins provide pleasing grip and structure in a manner that is assertive, yet alluring, while being both curiously coy and teasingly vampy. If you can recall Linda Ronstadt's dulcet rendering of "*Desperado*"; you'll likely know what we mean.

The grapes that made this wine were grown in an east-facing hillside Howell Mountain vineyard perched 2100 feet above the Napa Valley floor. 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— recently 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% Merlot
Vineyards:	Howell Mountain
Production:	143 cases
Harvest Date:	October 4-8 th , 2013
Cooperage:	60% new French oak (25 months); St. Martin, Fr. Freres, Taransaud
Bottle Date:	February 9, 2016
Release Date:	March 1, 2017

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