



MOONE • TSAI

### Wine Profile

## Moone-Tsai 2015 Black List XVI

### Tasting Notes

Deep ruby red in hue, our Black List XVI is a handsomely nuanced expression of two notable hillside vineyard origins found on historic Howell Mountain and Soda Canyon. With vibrant aromas of black fruit, red fruit and hints of cedar, the nose of this beguiling Bordeaux-style blend invites immediate interest and curiosity. On the palate, the wine offers ripe black cherry and blackberry notes, accented with touches of black tea, bramble and spice. Revealing a pleasing acidity and finely grained tannins; the wine's mid-palate is marked by a supple, sinewy texture and freshness. Exuberantly youthful at release, the wine is lightly muscled and agile, with traces of pluck, character and complexity emerging at just the right time. If an analogy can be drawn to the gifted screen actor, Christian Bale (earlier in his career: *3:10 to Yuma*, or Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight*), we think that you'll see an award-winning performance ready for the uncorking!

The merlot 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 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. The cabernet hails from the volcanic, rocky soils found in a cooler climate block located in Soda Canyon.

**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:	67% Merlot, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon
Vineyards:	Howell Mountain, Soda Canyon
Production:	145 cases
Harvest Date:	September 12 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2015
Cooperage:	85% new French oak - St. Martin, Fr. Freres, Taransaud
Bottle Date:	June 7, 2017
Release Date:	November 1, 2018

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