



MOONE • TSAI

Wine Profile

Moone-Tsai 2017 Black List XXIII

Tasting Notes

For those who enjoy numerology, “23” holds notable significance. Well before NBA superstars Michael Jordan and LeBron James donned #23 on their respective team jerseys; geneticists alighted to the discovery that 23 chromosomes (from each contributing parent) are needed to start human life. This finding, uncoincidentally(?), but poetically addressed the age-old question posed in Bible Passage-Numbers 23:23: “*What hath God wrought?*” While we resist any comparisons to NBA “G.O.A.T. types” much less to the Old Testament; we invite your enjoyment of our 23rd Black List Proprietary Wine, ...to see what is possible when exceptional fruit from an exceptional vintage ...combine with inspired winemaking technique, and derring-do.

At first glance, the wine’s inky ruby red hue creates a visually arresting threshold, across which the wine’s aromatics are introduced. Scents of ripe black fruits and Bing cherry skins are accompanied by traces of fragrant almond, sandalwood shavings, and fresh clay that together, reveal alluring counterpoints. Demonstrative on the attack, a rush of blackberry, boysenberry takes hold, with teases of violet, earth and mineral not far behind. Aged 20 months in 42% New French oak, the wine displays pleasing volume and structure - marked by medium-plus acidity, grainy tannins, and handsome layering. Vibrant, spirited (but not boisterous), complex, and engaging from its propitious start to satisfying finish; the wine invites comparison to a young Benjamin Franklin who on his way to becoming one of the republic’s founding fathers ...opined: “*Wine is constant proof that God love us and loves to see us happy*” – (1779).

The grapes that made this wine were grown from three admired vineyards, each of whose fruit is coveted by winemakers from all over. With Cab Franc and Petite Verdot grown on the slopes of Diamond Mountain (outside Calistoga), Cabernet Sauvignon from a renowned block in the upper reaches of St. Helena, and noble Merlot from Howell Mountain; their combination in the hands of Philippe Melka is nothing less than exquisite.

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:	39% Petit Verdot, 24% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 17% Cab Franc
Vineyards:	Diamond Mountain, Howell Mountain, St. Helena
Production:	130 cases
Harvest Date:	Sept. 6 th – 30 th , 2017
Cooperage:	Twenty months: 42% new French oak: St. Martin, Fr. Freres, Taransaud
Bottle Date:	June 4, 2019
Release Date:	March 1, 2021

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

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