



MOONE + TSAI

Wine Profile

2021 Black List XXXIV

The 2021 vintage will be remembered for low yields delivering intensely flavored, small-sized berries tied to a smooth and uneventful growing season. The scant rains through the winter and early spring led to the second year of drought conditions. While more rain would have been welcomed (invariably so), these dryer conditions resulted in a more natural load on the vines, requiring less pruning and dropping of fruit. Smaller yields characterized the season's highly anticipated outcome – glorious grapes packed with flavor.

The inky dark scarlet/ruby red immediately signals “come hither” for an invitation that’s hard to resist. The alluring nose of black plum, berries and shaved sandalwood draws one’s attention even closer. The attack does not hold back, showing off additional plushness characterized by ample notes of ripe black fruits, cassis, and suggestive hints of sweet oak, clove and baking spice. Fermented in stainless steel tanks (individual lots), with an average three-day cold soak (23 days on skins), the wine is aged for 18 months in 65% new French Oak. Demonstrating medium plus acidity, excellent volume and a full-figured structure reminiscent of Hollywood’s most glamorous starlets during its Golden Age of the 1930’s - 1950’s, the wine completes itself with a finish that is mesmerizingly memorable.

The backbone of this notable Cabernet blends gorgeous fruit from the majestic Montagna Vineyard on Pritchard Hill, in tandem with favored rows found in Soda Canyon, just south of the Stags Leap AVA at the cooler end of Napa Valley. Here, the soils are loamy, rocky, and deep, supporting bigger and stronger vines that lend themselves to generous, layered wines noted for refinement and nuanced acidity.

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:	Pritchard Hill, Soda Canyon
Harvest Date:	Sept. 17 th – Oct. 11 th 2021
Cooperage:	65% new French oak (18 months): St. Martin, Francois Freres, Taransaud