



## 2022 Black List XXXVI

### Tasting Notes

The 2022 harvest capped one of the most unique growing seasons in recent history, starting with a classic white wine harvest that opened in early August, followed quickly by red wine varieties. Notwithstanding an unexpected heat spike over five days in September, rains followed to provide a welcomed respite allowing harvest to proceed through mid-October. The results were white wines showcasing delightful flavors/textures, and perfect acidity/freshness, followed by remarkable reds showcasing deep colors, luxurious tannins, and exquisite aromatics.

Dark ruby red in the glass, the wine's nose opens with overtures of ripe black fruit, abetted by hints of clove and fennel. Initially reticent on the attack, this 100% Cabernet Sauvignon unfolds with notes of blackberry, cassis, and suggestions of star anise, dry herbs, and grated cinnamon. Fermented in stainless steel tanks (individual lots) with an average three-day cold soak (22 days on skins), the wine is aged for 20 months in 75% new French oak. All put in place, the wine shows off a honed, lightly chiseled structure, complete with medium plus acidity, and a pleasing palate weight that in its superb balance, glides with checkered-flag intent to a winning flourish at the finish. Lithe, athletic, and ready to swagger, this latest Black List edition invites comparison to the coolly talented Lando Norris, lead Formula One driver for the renowned McLaren Race Team, winner of the 2024 World Championship.

This notable Cabernet features prized fruit from some of the most rugged slopes on revered Diamond Mountain (2000 ft elevation), in concert with favored rows found in Coombsville, where precious fruit from coveted blocks have been flourishing in rocky, volcanic soils for over 30 years.

**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:	Coombsville, Diamond Mountain
Harvest Date:	Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
Cooperage:	75% new French oak (20 months): St. Martin, Francois Freres, Taransaud