

Linden

HARDSCRABBLE RED 2021

STYLE

Hardscrabble Red has been of a certain style, an emulation of Bordeaux, for decades. A combination of climate change and our own maturity, self-discovery and confidence has changed the equation. During blending trials the Cabernet Sauvignon was impressive and attempts to introduce other varietals in the wine took away from the élan, its drive, its specialness. Ultimately it was a flight of 2008 Barolos that showed us that power didn't have to come from ultra-ripe fruit, alcohol and oak. The resulting blend is 95% Cabernet Sauvignon. The wine is elegant, restrained, but concentrated. An iron fist in a velvet glove.

VINEYARD

Hardscrabble Vineyard is on top of the Blue Ridge at 1,200 to 1,400 feet with an eastern to southern slope. Moderately shallow, well drained rocky, granite soils give depth, structure and length to the Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc while more clay-based soils are dedicated to Merlot. Most of the vines are 10 to 20 years old and planted at 1,500 to 2,500 vines per acre.

VINTAGE

Spring arrived gently with a cold February followed by a mild, dry March. Bud break came in late April as expected. However, a May 7 hailstorm caused minor damage to shoots, though clusters were unaffected.

May through July remained dry, promoting excellent pollination and small berries, but young vines showed water stress. Veraison began in late July under hot, dry conditions, leading to quick, even ripening. Mid-August brought humidity and showers, slowing ripening and increasing disease pressure.

Harvest for Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc took place from October 1–3.

WINEMAKING

Sorted and destemmed. Fermented warm with gentle pump-overs early and then punch downs once the cap formed. Pressing took place after about 20 to 28 days. The wine was aged for 12 months in used and new French oak barrels. 95% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc. Bottled in January 2023. 2,530 bottles produced. Alcohol 12.9%. Drink 2025 through 2031.



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