

Cascade Cliffs Vineyard & Winery

Bordeaux Club – Spring, 2020

We owe much of our love for wine to the French. It was their cultivation of *vitis vinifera* grapes centuries ago that led to world-wide recognition of wines like Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Merlot, Pinot Noir, Sauvignon Blanc, Syrah and many others. These wines were not, and for the most part, are still not called by their varietal name. Instead, they were bottled as wines named after places in Burgundy, the Loire and Rhone Valley, and of course, Bordeaux.



The culture of Bordeaux wine – its hierarchical complexity, stunning chateaus and jaw-dropping costs – is overwhelming and unapproachable for most of us. If you are fortunate enough to have tasted some of the better wines made here, you probably understand what all the fuss is about. The most important aspect of Bordeaux, however, is not how far back their history goes, not how elaborate their wineries are, and not even how good some of the wines are. It is the fact that this small, southwestern region of France spawned countless, future generations of growers and producers to try their hand at producing “fine wine”. California challenged France’s supremacy of wine back in the 70s at the famous Judgment of

Paris competition- and won. Some of the world’s greatest Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, Bordeaux’s two most important varietals, is now made right here in the Pacific NW. Countries like Australia, Chile, Italy, and Spain too all produce world-class examples of these wines now. French wine might be completely foreign to you, but if you love wine, you arguably have Bordeaux, France to thank for that.

And so, we are proud to offer our customers the option of The Bordeaux Club, an homage to this great region. To be clear, a “Bordeaux varietal” includes Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, and Petite Verdot for red wines (technically Carménère as well), and Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon for white wines. Quite often, these grapes are blended with each other to create complex, balanced wines that offer an array of aromas and flavors, and in the case of reds, some of the best wine for aging. We have been working with some of these varietals since the very beginning of Cascade Cliffs and continue to expand our product line-up with grapes like Malbec and Sauvignon Blanc. Some of our best Reserve wines have been Cabernet Sauvignon. We have also used these varietals to create some of our best blends like Paisan and Petroglyph Red. And we have now procured fruit from one of Washington state’s top areas for these Bordeaux varietals- Red Mountain.

Raise a glass, friends, to our French brethren and enjoy this delicious mix of wines! We are proud to produce these types of wines and will continue this tradition for many years to come.

With good cheer

~All of us at Cascade Cliffs Vineyard & Winery

Tasting notes

2019 Sauvignon Blanc

The Facts: Our latest Sauvignon Blanc might be our best to date. 2019 was a tricky harvest for the red varietals as temperatures cooled off quickly at the end of the summer. But this did not affect the white/green grapes and this wine shows the finesse of a wine made from well-balanced fruit. Racy flavors of white grapefruit and lemon zest are followed by a crisp, mouth-watering finish. The refreshing acidity in this wine makes it perfect to pair with a plethora of foods. Although we made this wine in stainless steel, there is an interesting component of 10% barrel-aged Chardonnay(!) that was blended into it prior to bottling.



~**Pair this wine with:** Grilled asparagus, pasta with pesto sauce, fish tacos.

~**Aging:** Short term (now to 2022).

2018 Malbec

The Facts: Most folks associate this varietal with Argentina, and for good reason; maybe the world's best versions of Malbec have been produced in Argentina for decades now. But the origins of this grape begin in France, and presently it is grown and produced throughout the wine world including Australia, New Zealand,

California, Oregon and, of course, Washington. Sourcing this fruit from the hot, dry confines of the Wahluke Slope AVA, our 2018 Malbec displays inky, eggplant color and intense, sweet aromas of sun-soaked berries. The wine is fruity on the attack, yet dry on the finish with interesting spice and herbal notes throughout.

~ **Pair this with:** Lamb, wild mushrooms, cave-aged gruyere.

~**Aging:** Mid-term (drink now to 2024).

2018 Winemaker's Select Cabernet Sauvignon

The Facts: Sourced from Red Mountain's Quintessence vineyard, this fruit was some of the best Cabernet Sauvignon we have ever worked with. Couple that with the fantastic 2018 vintage and you have a stellar wine that will only continue to improve over time. Focused flavors of black cherry, cassis, and sweet herbs are wrapped around a framework of fine-grained tannins and moderate acidity on the finish. Although enjoyable and impressive now, this wine will show its full potential in years to come.

~ **Pair this with:** Beef tenderloin, French onion soup, aged, dry cheese.

~**Aging:** Long-term (drink now to 2028).

