

## 2015 Madrona Ranch

Inaugural Vintage: 1987

Acreage: 23

Soil Composition: Pleasanton, Gravelly Loam, Bale Clay, Red Aiken

Varieties: 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Cabernet Franc, 11% Petit Verdot, 2% Merlot

Harvest Dates: September 8, 10, 11, 17

Production: 17 Barrels

Bottled: December 2017

Release Date: September 2019

The unwavering old vines at Madrona Ranch had been challenged by hot vintages in the past. It was no surprise that the vines, planted in 1980, carried their crop nobly. Every block was picked with precision, capturing the fruit as it quickly ripened. With the fast pace of harvest, several blocks were picked together. The clusters were light and sparse. Sorting was strict. In a mere 9 days, harvest was completed at Madrona Ranch, yielding four separate fermentations.

Just as in most years, the first pick at the ranch is a scavenger hunt. On September 8, multiple blocks were meticulously combed for the most progressed fruit. Two days later, a larger pick of equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, primarily from the lower blocks, was sorted over two days in order to get the most optimum fruit in the tank. The following day, the last of the fruit from the upper ranch was harvested along with a large section of the old vines at the base of the ranch. The last of the fruit was picked and combined in tank on September 17. The 2015 harvest was the earliest in more than 20 years.