



EARLY MOUNTAIN

2017 Rosé

*At the foot of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, nature is at once graceful and fierce. Early Mountain wines are made here through a combination of ingenuity and true grit. We gently tend to every vine so the wine that emerges from the cellar is a clear descendant of the fruit at harvest — a unique wine that respects its heritage while embracing evolution and adventure. **Virginian through and through.***

Blend: 73% Merlot, 18% Syrah, 7% Malbec, 2% Cabernet Franc

Winemaker Note: We continue to harvest and ferment block by block to understand precisely what we get (and want) from each. The 2017 is close to 100% grown, picked and pressed for rosé, as we opted to use only a very small portion of saignée. For the third year in a row, we used our estate Quaker Run Syrah as the “spiritual leader” of the wine, it guides our approach and provides much of the color and flavor -- even though the blend is predominantly Merlot. Malbec and Cabernet Franc round out the aromatics, bringing fresh fruit (Malbec), and an herbal quality (Franc). We sought to strike the balance between the fruit and mineral flavors in the wine, but with the 2017 we have more of an acid backbone than in any previous vintage.

Wine Description: The pale, salmon color primes us for the strawberries, white peaches and floral aromas and flavors of this wine. The acidity brings a brightness to the fruit and the wine lingers with wet stone and a pleasant citrus pith character.

Vintage Description: 2017 was a welcome and accommodating growing season. We saw warm temperatures in March, but after one close call, were lucky to avoid any significant frost events in the spring. Early rainfall throughout the beginning of the season gave way to a dry summer, unlike many we have seen in Virginia. Our warm days and cool nights created a diurnal shift that allowed for ideal ripening conditions, gaining high sugars, while also preserving vibrant acidity in the fruit. Unlike many Virginia harvests, we had the luxury of “waiting” to pick because the customary rains held off. The reds benefitted from this relatively languid harvest, with longer time on the vine lending more layering and maturity to flavors.

Vineyard Block (100% Estate):: Early Mountain Vineyards, Quaker Run Vineyards

Clone/Rootstock: Merlot 15, 101-14; Merlot 15, 3309; Syrah 877, 101-14; Syrah 174, 101-14; Malbec 598, Riparia Gloire; Malbec FPS19, 101-14; Cabernet Franc 312, 101-14

Technical:

Bottled: 2.6.2018

Cases produced: 1,750

Yeast: Ambient and Cultured

Alcohol: 12.5%

pH: 3.35

TA: 5.60 g/L

RS: 0.80 g/L

