



## EARLY MOUNTAIN

### 2020 Soif

*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:** 32% Cabernet Franc, 31% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 8% Petit Verdot, 2% Petit Manseng

**SRP:** \$26

**Winemaker Note:** "Soif" is French for "thirst", and this wine embraces the *Vin de Soif* style so popular in Parisian wine bars: low tannin, juicy, and fun. The 2020 Soif was a wine that was conceived in the midst of harvest. One of those intuitive moves that resulted in a new perspective; one we liked a lot, and it turns out we weren't the only ones. After great feedback from our members on both the 2017 and 2018, we have decided to continue making the wine for the club for the foreseeable future. This year, we led with our lighter style Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon; we picked it early, with good acidity and lots of bright citrus and red fruit aromas and flavors. Once again Soif ends up being the wine version of the friend who is always positive, who refuses to let you take life too seriously. Its fresh, low tannin nature allows it to be served cool to chilled, making for a flexible Summer red wine. Also, we made a bit more, because we know this a wine that demands a refill; one bottle just won't cut it

**Description:** The two Cabernets are driving the character of this wine, lively and aromatic with plenty of the classic herbal notes tangled up in the bright and fruity carbonic character. Merlot and Petit Verdot provide a bit of roundness to the middle, along with bright acidity. This wine embraces the cool climate of 2020 and fits perfectly into the playful nature we are finding in this wine year in and year out.

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**In the Vineyard:** *The growing season was dynamic to say the least, adding to the chaotic nature of the year as a whole. Despite an early budbreak followed by frost risk, Early Mountain was lucky to avoid the worst of it with only a Petit Manseng block and some lower areas of Chardonnay impacted.*

*The first half of the growing season was relatively dry and quite hot in June and July. Late July and early August brought a lot of moisture that was very challenging, but things dried out a bit heading into harvest. We ended up in a dance with the Atlantic, as tropical systems waltzed through every ten days for two months. Once again, we were lucky to be spared the worst of the weather, and we emerged at the end of harvest with a cellar full of high quality 2020 wines. In the spirit of every vintage being different than every other in our state, 2020 was unique in that the first half produced lighter wines with high acid and the second half brought riper, more classic wines.*

**Vineyard Block:** EMV Block 1 West, EMV Block 10, EMV Block 1 West Cabernet franc, Glenn Anne Petit Verdot, EMV Block 10 Cabernet Franc, EMV Block 11 Petit Manseng

**Technical:**

Bottled: 19 Feb 2021

320 Cases produced:

Yeast: Ambient

Alcohol: 12.3%

pH: 3.765

TA: 4.6g/L

RS: 0.1 g/L (0.01%, dry)