



EARLY  
MOUNTAIN

**2016 Eluvium**

*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:** 56% Merlot, 44% Petit Verdot

**SRP:** \$38

**Winemaker Note:** Quaker Run Merlot stars in Eluvium, grown in both the West and East Blocks on the slope. From some of our oldest vines, this Merlot contributes density and aromatic purity; presence and persistence with fine grain tannin. Petit Verdot in the blend contributes structure, depth, and power. In 2016, we worked with a higher percentage of Petit Verdot to build on relatively supple Merlot coming from the vintage, as well as a response to frost events that lowered our yields in our West block. The resulting structure does require more patience, and we expect the wine to need a year or two more of patience than we would normally expect from Eluvium.

**Description:** On the nose the fruits are dark with plum and blackberry accentuated by sage, cedar and wood spice. On the palate the flavors echo the aromas; structured and layered with ample and persistent tannin. With higher proportion of Petit Verdot, there is a ruggedness to the structure, and in its youth the wine leads with this tannic texture.

**Aging / Cellaring:** Aged 18 months in French barrique, 40% new and a year in bottle prior to release.

Aeration recommended. Should develop and drink well from 2020-2027 if properly cellared.

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**In the Vineyard:**

2016 began with very cold winter temperatures, significant frost events, and early spring showers. Though the summer saw normal levels of precipitation, the latter portion of the growing season was warm and dry, making for ripe and concentrated whites, leading to significant rain events later in the fall. The fruit for the components of this wine was picked prior to major rain events, resulting in high quality raw material for the wine.

**Vineyard Blocks:** Quaker Run Vineyard, Malick Vineyard

**Technical:** Cases produced: 210 Bottled: 27 March 2018

Yeast: Ambient Alcohol: 13.85% pH: 3.75

TA: 6.2 g/L RS: Dry