



EARLY MOUNTAIN

2019 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: 80% Merlot, 19% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc

Winemaker Note: For the last five vintages, Quaker Run Merlot has been the star of Eluvium, grown on both the East and West Blocks on the slope. From some of our oldest vines, this Merlot contributes density and aromatic purity; presence and persistence with fine grain tannin. Beginning in 2019 we gained access to two additional mountain vineyards, Capstone and Russ Mountain, and both bring high quality Merlot to the table. Considering the added power, depth and flavor density brought by their fruit, we are extremely excited about what we are now able to do with the blending of this wine.

This is the best Eluvium we have made, and while these three mountain vineyards work together to bring unique character, Eluvium still sits firmly in that rare position of depth and concentration on equal footing with purity of aromatics, poise and restraint. Petit Verdot continues to occupy around 20% of the blend, contributing structure, depth, and power. 2019 was a glorious vintage, similar to 2017, but with the benefit of recent memory of strategies for quality in a hot and dry season. While this will certainly be one of the longest lived Eluviums, it also has ripe tannins that, while being plentiful and persistent, allow for an early (well aerated) pop of the cork that is still exciting and pleasurable. This is definitely a wine to fit into my triple purchase strategy: one to open now, one in five years, and one for the far future based on how the middle one is tasting.

Description: On the nose the fruits are dark, deep, and rich, yet layered. Black cherry, ripe plum and cocoa are accentuated by cedar and baking spices. On the palate the flavors echo the aromas; The tannins are substantial but precise and not intimidating. Even at release the wine is long, rich and deep, and bottle age will serve it well.

Aging / Cellaring: Aged 18 months in French barrique, 40% new.

Aeration recommended. Should develop and drink well for a decade or more if properly cellared.

In the Vineyard:

2019 was an excellent vintage with balanced whites and reds with ripe intensity and richness. The season began early, with picking for sparkling at the very beginning of August, resulting from a moderately early budbreak. While this notably early start to the vintage was psychologically challenging, the fruit was well-balanced and we're excited to see how it develops in the cellar.

It is understandable to compare 2019 to 2017, however yields were more typical and balanced in 2019, compared to high yielding 2017. We were able to apply the learnings from the very ripe 2017 vintage to our farming and picking decisions in 2019, which often led us to pick blocks earlier; and rather than simply pursuing sugar ripeness, we have been able to farm and pick based on phenological ripeness and aromatic complexity.

Vineyard Blocks: Quaker Run Vineyard Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc; Capstone Vineyard Merlot and Petit Verdot, Russ Mountain Merlot, Shenandoah Springs Petit Verdot, Honah Lee Petit Verdot

Technical: Cases produced: 585 Bottled: March 17, 2021

Yeast: Ambient Alcohol: 14.2% pH: 3.85

TA: 5.1 g/L RS: Dry