



EARLY MOUNTAIN

2019 Novum

*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: 45% Cabernet Franc, 34% Merlot, 18% Tannat, 3% Petit Verdot

Winemaker Note: Novum continues to be an exercise in Cabernet Franc as expressed in a Bordeaux style blend. In 2016 we began to build the wine with fruit from Quaker Run, but we have since started working with two additional mountainside sites that have elevated all of our top tier reds. One of these, Capstone, is now important to Novum, working in tandem with the fruit from Quaker as the majority of the blend. Stylistically, we have done another about face, from 2018 to 2019. While 2018 was our most subtle and elegant bottling of this wine, the 2019 brings back the concentration we saw in 2017. However, it veered West Coast in its sweet fruited ripeness, while this is more European, but with plenty of power. We expect this will be the longest lived of the Novums, but a warning that the wine doesn't age as well once you have opened and consumed the bottle! No judgement though, we're opening them as well.

Wine description: On the nose we find dark cherry and blackberry, fully ripe and warmed by the sun, along with subtle rosemary and wood spice framed by the leafy, forest floor of the Cab Franc. The palate is deep, textured and intense, echoing the fruits of the aromas and finishing with thyme and cocoa. The tannins are persistent yet ripe, with Tannat providing the structural foundation, and the wine lingers on the palate for a long time.

Aging & Cellaring: Aged in French and northern European oak, 35% new, for 15 months. This is drinking well now, in a young and intense kind of way. It should develop well over the next seven to ten years, 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.

Vineyards: Quaker Run Vineyard, Capstone, Russ Mountain, Honah Lee

Technical: Bottled: 1/27/2021 Cases produced: 420 Yeast: Ambient
Alcohol: 14.1% pH: 3.87 TA: 5.3 g/L RS: Dry SRP: \$42