



EARLY MOUNTAIN

## 2017 RISE

*Rise represents the pinnacle of what we do at Early Mountain. It is the result of vintage, site, farming, and winemaking simultaneously hitting their highest marks, a tall order for an agricultural endeavor. 2017 was almost ideal from a grape growing perspective with warm, dry days, cool nights, and the luxury to pick at the precise moment of ripeness. As Virginia's expansion on the world stage continues to accelerate, its mountain vineyards have taken the lead. Rise takes the very best that these steep slopes have to offer, and gives us a wine sharing the qualities of density, complexity and ageability of those we look to in Bordeaux, but offering compelling textural and aromatic qualities that are unique to our wines made from our mountainsides.*

**– Ben Jordan, Winemaker**

*When we first opened Early Mountain Vineyards we dreamed of someday producing a wine that could stand side by side with the great wines of the world. The 2017 vintage has been the second opportunity to do so, proving that patience pays and dedication to quality is rewarded. Using hand selected grapes from our best mountainside vineyard blocks, our talented winemaking team has crafted a unique and extraordinary wine. This superior wine highlights the best Early Mountain has to offer and reinforces our commitment to world class quality in the wines we craft.* **– Jean Case, Owner**

**OUR VINEYARD:** Our acquisition of the Quaker Run vineyard on the southern side of Doubletop mountain changed our winemaking in a number of ways, but in the creation of this wine, Rise, we see the most profound influence. The steep, rocky slopes of the eastern Blue Ridge produce a wine of power and focus that stands with the structured and age worthy wines from leading regions of the world.

Quaker Run Merlot is the heart of Rise, selected from the block on the Eastern slope. From some of our oldest, lowest vigor vines, this Merlot contributes density and aromatic purity; presence and persistence with fine grain tannin. Cabernet Franc drives aromatic complexity and the Petit Verdot and Tannat contribute structure, depth, and power, building a complete picture. The grapes are a minute selection of our production, and this is our most age worthy wine.

**BLEND:** 62% Merlot, 19% Petit Verdot, 12% Tannat, 6% Cabernet Franc, 1% Cabernet Sauvignon

**TASTING NOTES:** Rise is our most powerful wine, and also one of the most beautiful, which may seem a paradox, but it is the overarching philosophy we bring to building it — by balancing of power, concentration, and texture with aromatic complexity, detail, and flavors that range from deep and persistent to subtle and suggestive, echoing at the edge of the palate. On the nose, the fruits are deep and dark with Damson plum and wild blackberries accented by mint, cedar and wood spice. On the palate the flavors echo the aromas; structured and layered with ample and persistent tannin.

**AGING / CELLARING:** Aged 18 months in French barrique (50% new) and 18 months in bottle prior to release. Aeration recommended. Will develop and drink well from 2020-2033 if properly cellared.

**Production:** 379 cases

