

# Foothills

EARLY MOUNTAIN

2022

## WINE DESCRIPTION

The 2022 Foothills is a lively and engaging wine, brimming with a mix of red and dark fruits, a hint of dried herbs like tarragon, and a touch of graphite. This medium-bodied wine surprises with its soft tannins and bright acidity, offering more complexity and depth than its price suggests. With layers of flavors that unfold gradually, it's an everyday wine that promises a little extra thoughtfulness and enjoyment in every sip.

## WINEMAKER NOTE

We always have fun making the multiple variety blends like Five Forks and Foothills. Both wines are made from vineyard blocks that produce fruit that stands in contrast to how we are told red wine or white wine should be. Over several vintages, we have noticed that Foothills inherently embraces classical Virginia vintages, even to the point in riper years, we find ourselves blending towards aromatics and a palate weight that could even be considered refreshing. While we typically blend a small bit of Petit Manseng into this red blend, 2022 is unique in that we utilized Petit Manseng to a greater extent, at final blending. We have always considered Foothills a "Bordeaux-ish" blend, with Petit Verdot being used at much higher percentages, but allowing for a lot more play using other varietals, like Petit Manseng. It is this non-committal approach to blending that makes Foothills such a unique and vibrant wine.

## WINEMAKER

Maya Hood White

## In the Vineyard

A cool summer made for high acidities heading into the sparkling wine harvest season and dry weather at the end of August made for ideal picking conditions. Early spring, we experienced few frost events, escaping significant fruit damage. Throughout spring and into summer, we saw typical showers, which thankfully cleared up around bloom-time, returning shortly after, resulting in a bit more of a rainy season than 2021 experienced. As the season progressed, we saw greater variability in rainfall depending on site, throughout the state. The late season rains, leading to harvest were also accompanied by notable drying, and at times, significant diurnal shifts, which allowed for balanced vineyards to fully ripen prior to seeing the remnants of Hurricane Ian.

## COMPOSITION

**46% Merlot**  
**24% Cabernet Sauvignon**  
**20% Petit Verdot**  
**7% Petit Manseng**  
**3% Cabernet Franc**



## VINEYARD

Early Mountain Vineyard  
Capstone Vineyard  
Sherman Ridge Vineyard  
Glenn Anne Vineyard  
Russ Mountain Vineyard  
Shenandoah Springs Vineyard

## AGING

Aged in neutral French oak,  
10% new French oak and  
stainless steel.

## CELLARING

This wine is meant to be  
drunk on the younger side.  
We expect it to be in its  
peak drinking window in  
the next two to five years.

## TECHNICAL

Cases produced: 1,380  
Bottled: 20 July, 2023  
Yeast: Ambient  
Alcohol: 13.4%

pH: 3.82  
TA: 5.1 g/L  
RS: 0.27 g/L