

Novum

EARLY MOUNTAIN

2021

WINE DESCRIPTION

Novum is a blend that highlights some of the more unique attributes of Quaker Run. A vibrant expression of Cabernet Franc and Tannat, supported by Merlot, Novum demonstrates how two seemingly dichotomous varieties can work in harmony. Our focus on the elegant structure and aromatics of Cabernet Franc are uniquely highlighted by the heft and brooding nature of Tannat. The nose presents with bright cherry and currant, fresh and vibrant, leading to attributes of cola, Damson plum, baking spices, and dried marjoram, supported by earthen and ever-generous forest floor notes. Textured and lively, with moderate density supported by a unique tannin and acid dynamic coming from Tannat.

WINEMAKER NOTE

Novum has always had a special place in my heart; it is a wine that uniquely expresses the vintage. We work with so many exciting Cabernet Franc sites and have always found Tannat extremely complimentary to it. Novum continues to be an exercise in Cabernet Franc, which is 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 further elevated all of our top-tier reds. The 2021 Novum veers into a weighted realm, with dense and nuanced aromatics from two clones of Quaker Run Cabernet Franc, blended with Tannat for structure and length, highlighting the bright fruit coming from Merlot.

WINEMAKER

Maya Hood White

In the Vineyard

In the lively spirit of Virginia, 2021 was an exciting vintage for Early Mountain. It very much reflects the impact of the site, with regions throughout the state experiencing highly varying climatic events, greatly influencing the dynamic range in fruit attributes. Early spring, we gratefully saw few frost events, escaping significant fruit damage. Despite some early season rains, bloom-time in the vineyard was quite dry, allowing for a good fruit set. With warm daytime temperatures throughout most of the growing season, we saw high and even ripening throughout both Quaker Run and Early Mountain vineyards. The late-season rains, leading to harvest, were also accompanied by notable drying (this was doubly obvious when tending to our new plantings, which need water!). Overall, despite harvest-time rainfall, we could not have asked for a better result.

COMPOSITION

43% Cabernet Franc
30% Merlot
27% Tannat



VINEYARD

Quaker Run Vineyard
Capstone Vineyard
Sherman Ridge Vineyard

AGING

Aged in primarily larger format French and northern European oak, 35% new, for 16 months.

CELLARING

This is drinking well now, in a young and intense way. It should develop well over the next five to seven years if properly cellared.

TECHNICAL

Cases produced: 450
Bottled: 13 March, 2023
Yeast: Ambient
Alcohol: 13.9%

pH: 3.82
TA: 5.0 g/L
RS: 0.37 g/L