

Domaine de la Terre Rouge

TERRE ROUGE® AND EASTON WINES



2002 Cabernet Sauvignon "Estate" - Shenandoah Valley

Our Cabernet Sauvignon is from the Baldinelli Vineyard which was planted in 1972 on St. George rootstock. This is an old, low bearing, small berry/cluster clone. Yields are about 2-2 1/2 tons per acre. Our growing season is longer and cooler than what many might assume. It is comparable in many ways to the Howell Mountain region of the Napa Valley. Red, iron-laden soils of grainy decomposed granite. Warm days moderated by afternoon Delta breezes and cool night air from the high Sierra peaks just 50 miles to our East. Closer to harvest as the days become shorter, fruit cooled overnight takes half the day to warm again and matures slowly. Most of the grapes are fermented in 5 ton open top fermenters and hand-punched. The remainder are fermented in a 10 ton closed top tank where the cap is irrigated with a special device during pump-over. Lots are combined at a later date depending on the winemaker's discretion. Aging takes place in 100% French Bordeaux barrels from Taransaud cooperage. They are thin-staved Bordeaux-styled Center of France barrels and 50%-75% are brand new each year. The remainder of the barrels are from the two previous years vintages. The wine is in barrel for two years prior to bottling in the Fall of 2004. It was aged in bottle for an additional four years prior to its' release in early 2009.

Color is dark purple, with complex aromas of cedar, tobacco, and asian spice box. The fruit is blackberry and cassis with a pleasant St.-Julien like texture, mineral-infused flavors, and sappiness. The wine has good balance, intensity, a plush texture, and length. It is a youngster now and slow to open, which bodes well for age ability.

14.5 % alcohol by vol.; 3.64 pH; 6.3 gm./liter total acidity

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