



WINE:

2013 FIREBELLE

CLASSIFICATION:

LARKMEAD VINEYARDS

PRODUCTION:

1,442 CASES

VARIETAL COMPOSITION:

76% MERLOT

19% CABERNET SAUVIGNON

5% PETIT VERDOT

SOIL PROFILE:

PLEASANTON LOAM (CLAY)

ALCOHOL:

14.7%

FRENCH OAK AGING:

20 MONTHS, 56% NEW OAK
TONELLERIE BOSSUET

TASTING NOTES:

IN THE 2013 FIREBELLE, WE BLEND CABERNET SAUVIGNON AND PETIT VERDOT TO HELP ACCENTUATE THE MERLOT'S RIPE, BLUE PLUM SKIN AROMAS AND BERRY CHARACTER WHILE PROVIDING ACCOMPANYING FLORAL AND COLA NOTES. THESE AROMAS ARE BRIGHT BUT TIGHTLY WOVEN INTO THEMSELVES; HOWEVER, WITH TIME IN THE GLASS, THERE IS A PLEASANT HINT OF LOAM SOIL ON THE NOSE THAT BRINGS THE WINE BACK TO EARTH. IN THE MOUTH WE FIND THE CHARACTERISTIC EXPANSIVENESS OF THE VINTAGE - A BROAD, MOUTH COATING TEXTURAL COMPONENT THAT IS DUSTY WITH A HINT OF CHERRY AND BITTERSWEET CHOCOLATE. THE TANNINS WRAP GENTLY AROUND A BLUEBERRY CORE THAT HAS SUBTLE TONES OF SASSAFRAS.

DRINKING WINDOW:

THE 2013 GROWING SEASON WAS PERFECT TO EXTRACT THE DENSITY AND POWER OF MERLOT - TWO CHARACTERISTICS THAT ARE NOT OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE GRAPE. IN THIS BOTTLING, THE WINE IS COMPRISED OF MORE MERLOT THAN WE HAVE EVER PUT UNDER CORK AND WE ARE THRILLED THAT THE WINE HAS TAKEN THIS PATH. CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF ABOUT MERLOT'S SUBTLETY, THIS IS AN AGGRESSIVE WINE AND WILL WITHSTAND 20+ YEARS OF CELLARING. HOWEVER, I'D LIKE TO REVISIT THIS WINE IN 3-5 YEARS AS THE ENERGY IN THE WINE IS WRAPPED UP IN ITS YOUTH.

-DAN PETROSKI, WINEMAKER

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