



2019 Murray Red Wine Red Mountain AVA

Merlot 50%, Cabernet Sauvignon 30%, Malbec 10%, Cab Franc 10%
"Out of Line" Vineyard 70% E&E Shaw 30%

Oak Program

- New 30%, Neutral 70%
- French 80%, European 10%, Hungarian 10%
- Aged in small (59 gallon) barrels

Harvest Dates

- All grapes harvested between Sept. 16, 2019 and Oct. 22, 2019

Growing Season

2019 was cooler than recent vintages, though still hotter than the 20-year average. Uncharacteristically, we had snow in the vineyards into March, which delayed both pruning and budbreak. Summer temperatures were cooler and more even than recent years. The lack of heat spikes led to more consistent ripening, allowing the phenolics to mature earlier than normal. For a warm AVA like Red Mountain this led to a beautiful balance of phenolics ripeness and acid, which is something we are always striving for here at Hightower Cellars.

Production Methods

Handpicked, crushed, and destemmed directly into square open-top fermenters. We do not use a must pump; this helps tame the tannins. The ferments are hand punched down. We press directly into barrel where the wine ages sur lee until it completes malolactic fermentation.

We bottled 234 cases