

IRONSTONE RESERVE MERITAGE 2020

Sierra Foothills, California



TASTING NOTES: For the 2020 vintage, the winemaker chose three of the noble Bordeaux grape varieties to be a part of this blend which is an exceptionally elegant and full-bodied wine. Aromas of blackberry jam, cassis and cola layered by mint and white pepper are displayed. Luscious cooked-berry fruit fills the mouth with hints of vanilla, and rich blackberry carries through to a smooth and well-rounded finish.

VITICULTURE: Located at 2,400 feet above sea level, these grapes were estate-grown at the winery's Hay Station Ranch vineyard, where warm days are cooled by the evening mountain air. This area's unique soil of decomposed granite mixed with volcanic sediment and red clay produce a wonderful mineral component. Grapes have been grown in the Sierra Foothills for 150 years.

VINIFICATION: This reserve wine was aged for 12 months in small French & American oak barrels.

INTERESTING FACT: The caverns that house Ironstone's barrel-aged wines were hand-blasted by local miners, many whose families came to California in search of gold in the 1800's. These caverns naturally remain at 60°F.

FAMILY: In 1926, the Kautz family began farming in the Lodi region and in 1958, John Kautz Farms was founded. In 1988, John and his wife Gail, along with their children, Stephen, Kurt, Joan and Jack, built a state-of-the-art winery and entertainment facility in the town of Murphys, the heart of the Gold Rush era, producing their first vintage in 1989. They followed this purchase with Bear Creek, one of the oldest continuously running wineries in Lodi, in 1997. Their vineyard holdings grew exponentially over the next 30 years, to 7,000 acres in both the Sierra Foothills and Lodi. Ironstone's location in Calaveras County, affectionately known as the "Queen of the Sierras," boasts mineral-rich, volcanic terroir, ideal for growing the wide range of varieties that run the gamut, from Chenin Blanc to Zinfandel.

PRODUCER: Ironstone Vineyards

REGION: Sierra Foothills, California

GRAPE(S): 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Cabernet Franc, 10% Merlot

ALCOHOL: 14.5%

TOTAL ACIDITY: 5.32 G/L

RESIDUAL SUGAR: 3.4 G/L

pH: 3.77