

DILLON



2017 Red Blend

HARVESTED		October 11, 2017
AVA VINEYARD		Royal Slope Stillwater Creek
BOTTLED		April 5th, 2022
COMPOSITION		43% Cabernet Franc, 39% Malbec, 18% Petit Verdot
ALCOHOL		14.3%
RELEASE DATE		October, 2022



VINTAGE NOTES

The 2017 vintage began cool and wet, and these cool temperatures lasted through mid-to-late spring. Summer arrived late, and the temperatures were back near historical averages. By late summer, the above average temperatures helped the vines catch up to previous warm vintages. The milder autumn temperatures observed during harvest allowed for higher acidity than in previous warm vintages. The result is wines that have a great sense of balance; boldness and concentration, along with minerality and tension.

WINEMAKING NOTES

Hand-picked on the same day, whole clusters of Cabernet Franc, Malbec & Petit Verdot were sorted together, destemmed & loaded directly into new French oak puncheon for **co-fermentation**. This is where the blend is achieved. **Native yeast** fermented. The puncheon were rolled on their “bellies” twice daily to stir up the grapes for gentle extraction. Primary fermentation lasted 39 days. We emptied the puncheon for pressing and then returned the wine to the same puncheon for **extended cellar aging** on gross lees (no stirring post-malo). **Native malolactic** fermentation completed in March 2018. After an extended fifty-three months of *élevage* in puncheon, the wine was gently racked, filtered and bottled. Six months in bottle before release. Two puncheon produced.

TASTING NOTES

Dense, dark ruby in color. Seductive and delicate perfume on the nose, yet with generous aromatics of red cherries, currants & rose petals. The palate is complex and layered, bringing ripe red fruits, fresh pencil shavings, petrichor, pepper, cinnamon and creme de cassis. The finish is mineral, balanced and long with a pleasing coating of dusty tannins. The co-fermentation serves to harmonize these varieties into a seamless and thoroughly enjoyable wine.

VINEYARD

Stillwater Creek Vineyard is a 235 acre site on the Royal Slope of the Frenchman Hills. Planted in 2000, the Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot lie at about 1500' elevation on a mixture of fractured basalt and fine sandy loam along the site's sun drenched south facing slopes.

ABOUT DILLON

To learn the ancient winemaking traditions, Marc worked vintages in France, Spain & Portugal and studied under some of the brightest minds. In 2012, after receiving his master's degree in enology & viticulture, Marc returned home and started DILLON to honor the ancient winemaking traditions.

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