



Owen Bargreen for Vinous

March 22, 2022

2018 Quintessence Vineyard Malbec (95)

Dense and hedonistic, the 2018 Malbec Quintessence Vineyard is quite simply an astoundingly good rendition of Red Mountain Malbec. Right away, it shows off a massive core of dark and blue fruits on the palate, along with copious minerals and beautiful balance. Full-bodied and heady, yet still showing a weightless quality, this is glorious wine that has another two decades to go.

2018 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (94)

Rich and layered, the generous, full-bodied 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Ciel du Cheval Vineyard reveals a silky mouthfeel with generous viscosity and tension. Heady huckleberry pie, mocha, tar and garrigue flavors come together brilliantly. While great to savor in its intense youth, this scintillating Red Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon has another 20 years to go.

2018 Fidelitas Estate Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (94)

Entirely Clone 2 and Clone 6 Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate shows off exotic spices and toasty oak on the nose, along with nutty undertones and a massive wall of dark fruits. The palate is dense and silky with great viscosity and tension and a collision of blackberry compote, mocha, tar and herbal undertones. Gorgeous and focused now, this has another 20 years to go.

2018 Heart of the Hill Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (94)

The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Heart of the Hill Vineyard is a glorious new wine by Charlie Hoppes. Intense tar, black licorice, anise and spice box flavors come together on the palate with great length and verve. The wine brilliantly showcases this site with its scorched earth tones.

2018 Quintessence Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (95)

Fidelitas has been making the Cabernet Sauvignon Quintessence Vineyard since 2012. The 2018 saw 28 months in 82% new French oak before bottling. The palate is plush and dense, featuring intense exotic spices and black tea notes alongside blackberry cobbler, cassis and tar on the palate. The length, flavor density and elegance of the wine are sensational. Try to give this another year of bottle age if you can.