



2017 HOLIDAY BLEND

Once again, we are happy to put together a special blend representing the best of the 2017 vintage. In 2017 we saw a slightly early start to the growing season with hot conditions, our typical monsoons, and generally good weather for ripening. The majority of the fruit for this blend came from our friend Paolo D'Andrea, who has 30+ years of growing experience in the Mimbres Valley of New Mexico.

This year we went for a traditional left bank Bordeaux-style blend, with Cabernet Sauvignon representing the majority share of the blend bolstered by Cabernet Franc and Merlot with grace notes of Malbec and Petit Verdot.

The Cab Sauv fruit that makes up the bulk of this blend comes from well-established, 25+ year-old vines. This fruit arrived at the winery on Sep. 12th, and was destemmed to tank and given two days of cold soak before beginning fermentation with a blend of cultivated wild yeast and D-80 yeast. It received thrice daily pumpovers, and fermentation lasted 7 days. After pressing, the wine settled in tank and was racked to barrel in early Oct.

We began blending by choosing our favorite barrels of Cabernet Sauvignon: both new, French Nadalie Elite MT+ barrels that gave us complex notes of cigar, fresh cut lumber, and preserved cherries. After we'd identified the heart of the blend, we found the best barrels of Cabernet Franc and Merlot to complement the Cab Sauv. The Merlot was a two year old barrel from AB that lent clear red fruit and caramel aromas and flavors, and the Cabernet Franc from a Nadalie Perle Blanche barrel that gave sweet spice notes. The Petit Verdot gave some added structure and palate weight and the Malbec added notes of blueberry to the mix.

AMERICAN VITICULTURAL AREAS (AVA):	99% Mimbres Valley, New Mexico, 1% Arizona
FARMING:	Drip Irrigation
VARIETAL CONTENT:	40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Cabernet Franc, 25% Merlot, 5% Malbec, 5% Petit Verdot
TIME IN OAK:	25 months
RESIDUAL SUGAR:	0.0 g/L
pH:	3.8
TOTAL ACIDITY:	7.2 g/L
ALCOHOL BY VOLUME:	14.9%
CASES PRODUCED:	105
WINEMAKERS:	Lisa Strid
WINEGROWERS:	Aridus Wine Company
WEBSITE:	www.ariduswineco.com