

Far Mountain,

`Fission` Cabernet Sauvignon Moon Mountain District 2020

Sonoma County, California, USA



Grape Varieties	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Winemaker	Rodrigo Soto
Closure	Natural Cork
ABV	14%
Residual Sugar	1.8g/L
Acidity	5.3g/L
Wine pH	3.76
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Sustainable, Vegetarian, Vegan

PRODUCER

Far Mountain was founded by winemakers Rodrigo Soto and his wife Mai Errazuriz three years ago. Having spent decades working for leading wineries across the Americas, the couple established this project with the belief that the best potential for wine in California lies in remote pockets of the Sonoma Valley mountains. With this philosophy in mind, they have sought out some exceptional vineyards and launched their first release, the 2019 vintage, to international acclaim. We are delighted to be starting with their second vintage which looks equally promising and exciting.

VINEYARDS

Located in Moon Mountain District AVA in the Sonoma Valley mountains, the vineyard has fifty-year-old head-pruned Cabernet Sauvignon vines, exceptional by California standards. They are also planted on St. George rootstock, which is now difficult to find. Because the vines have never been irrigated, they continue to produce fruit long past the age that most vines in California need replanting. They adapt to the influences of the weather and their deep root systems (20-40 feet down) bring layers of complexity to the fruit development. The bedrock is volcanic in origin, containing basalt along with fractured and decomposed granite. The elevation of the south-east facing vineyard means that it takes a full two weeks to pick from bottom to top.

VINTAGE

2020 was a challenging vintage from the onset: low winter rains in the dormancy phase prevented an early bud break despite warm temperatures. Rain eventually arrived in May and early June, resulting in a good soil-moisture profile at the beginning of the growing season. The basalt and granite soils meant that the vines benefitted from a cooling effect, creating favourable ripening conditions with very cool nights and mild temperatures from mid-July to mid-August. Harvest commenced on 15th September and was completed by 21st September. This relatively early pick helped capture an extraordinary freshness in the wine alongside good levels of concentration and aromatic intensity.

VINIFICATION

The Cabernet Sauvignon is handled extremely gently, more similarly to the way many producers handle Pinot Noir. The clusters were destemmed with the aim of keeping whole berries, and then transferred to open top fermenters. Limited punchdowns and pumpovers were carried out depending on the stage of fermentation. The wine was settled and macerated, without any forced extraction, to accentuate the intense fruit characters and velvety plushness of the grape tannins. It was then racked to oak barrels, 27% of which were new and the remaining between one and four-years-old, to be aged for one year.

TASTING NOTES

This wine displays intense and ripe black fruits along with earthy and mineral characters, and a seamless, silky flow through the mid-palate. A sappy concentration and powerful, yet refined tannins remain on the structured finish. The name Fission was ultimately chosen to reference the textural and mineral characteristics the volcanic soils bring to the wine.