



PRIDE

MOUNTAIN VINEYARDS

2023 CABERNET FRANC

51% NAPA | 49% SONOMA

blend

91% CABERNET FRANC

5% CABERNET SAUVIGNON

2% MERLOT

2% PETIT VERDOT

aging

18 MONTHS

40% NEW FRENCH

abv

14.6%

srp

\$90

global trade allocation

240 CASES

status

ALLOCATED

INSTAGRAM

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Cabernet Franc is enjoying a moment of stardom with tastemakers around the country and in cellars throughout Napa and Sonoma. Too often, it is vinified to be a Cabernet Sauvignon look alike, with gobs of new oak and glycerol extraction. These iterations may be delicious to drink, but they often bear little resemblance to the fine-boned prima ballerina that typifies the most graceful and iconic expressions of Cabernet Franc.

Pride Mountain Vineyards has been crafting Cabernet Franc since our first commercial vintage in 1992. When Steve Pride took the reigns in 2004, he began to look closely at our farming. A geophysicist by trade, Steve's approach combines science with years of farming observation. What he has found is that greenness in Franc is managed differently than in Cabernet Sauvignon. In the latter, sun exposure abates the pyrazine notes to reveal optimal flavors. In Franc, however, no amount of leaf pulling will ripen away excessive greenness. The key lies in deficit irrigation and ensuring the vine ceases vegetative growth ahead of veraison. With its energy focused squarely on ripening, Pride's Cabernet Franc develops its textbook red fruit and floral notes with lithe tannins. True to variety, the savory side of Franc shines through with oily herbs, bay leaf, and oak duff... in what we might call our unique Pride Mountain garrigue.

Pride Mountain Vineyards was founded in 1990 by Jim and Carolyn Pride. Today, the winery is owned by the second generation of the Pride family. At the crest of the Mayacamas Mountains, we are on the Napa-Sonoma county line. For this reason, our wines often carry a Napa-Sonoma designation. Because we rest in two AVAs, we may not use the "Estate" moniker on our wines. Far from regional blends, Pride wines are emblematic of our mountaintop terroir and unique position both within two counties and also as a place unto ourselves.

THE WINE

With a precise balance of ripe fruit and savory spice, the 2023 Cabernet Franc is everything we hoped for and more. The introduction is laden with fresh violets, raspberries, and wild blueberries. Delicate aromas of dried rosemary and fresh thyme push in from the edges. The tannins are mouth filling but pliable and relent to delightful spice notes, predominated by white pepper and red cedar, which carry this wine through its long, ambling finish. Cab Franc lovers will delight in this wine: plenty of upfront fruit, loads of savory typicity and a soft round texture.

