# Winemaker's Notes




## Lancaster Estate
## 2023 Block 13 Malbec

***Production: 112 cases***
***Varietals: 100% Malbec***

***Titratable Acidity: 5.3 g/L***
***pH: 3.72***
***Alcohol: 15.5%***

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### Our Thoughts...

*Our 2023 Block 13 Malbec is a dark, sultry tribute Alexander Valley's terroir. Ripe black cherry and dark plum dominate the nose with notes of sweet tobacco leaf, cocoa-nib, baking spice, and violet. The oak influence is present but polished. The palate echos the nose, adding cassis, dark chocolate, and cedar. Tannins are firm yet refined, softening through the finish. The wine is beautifully structured, leaving a velvety impression and lingering gentle earthiness.*

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### Vintage and Estate Notes:

A wet winter and spring kept the vines dormant for a couple of weeks later than usual in 2023 which resulted in a later-than-usual harvest. The summer saw moderate heat with just a few days over 100 degrees. Cool mornings led to optimal ripening conditions=087.

Consistent with Lancaster Estate's commitment to making wines of authenticity and place, all of our wines are estate grown, produced and bottled. Native yeasts are used for primary fermentation while secondary malolactic fermentation occurs naturally in barrel.

### Cooperage:

After primary fermentation in stainless steel tanks, the wine was underwent malolactic fermentation and aged sur lie in 50% new French oak for 18 months. We chose barrels from several coopers including Taransaud, Demptos, Saury and Bel Air, coopered using a combination of Medium Plus, Medium Long and Heavy toast levels to provide better integration and balance.