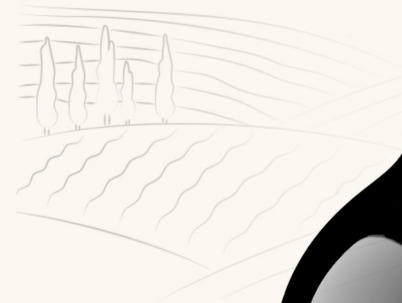


2023 CABERNET FRANC

Middleburg AVA · Estate Grown · 100% Cabernet Franc

A VINTAGE WORTH REMEMBERING

2023 was one of the driest growing seasons Virginia wine country has ever seen. The result was concentrated, complex fruit with naturally preserved acidity, a vintage that made the winemaker's job a pleasure and the wine's potential exceptional.



TECHNICAL DATA

Vintage: 2023

Varietal: 100% Cabernet Franc

AVA: Middleburg AVA

Harvest Date: Late September 2023

Harvest Brix: 24.5

Harvest pH: 3.50

Finished pH: 3.57

Tons Harvested: 8.4

ABV: 13.75%

Oak: 80% French, 20% American

Aging: 20 months

Vessel: Oak Barrels

Malolactic Fermentation: Yes

Cases Produced: 569

Bottled: June 2025

THE VINEYARD

Perched between 700 and 1,000 feet within the Middleburg AVA, this fruit comes from one of the premier sites at Barrel Oak. Granite and gneiss soils offer excellent drainage, steady airflow keeps the vines healthy, and high-density planting with vines just 2.5 feet apart naturally limits yields and concentrates every berry.

THE CELLAR

8.4 tons of handpicked fruit were fermented in nine individual one-ton lots using a combination of inoculated, controlled native, and spontaneous fermentations. A 21-day extended maceration followed primary fermentation to deepen structure and refine the tannins. The wine then aged for 20 months in a blend of 80% French and 20% American oak, incorporating new, once- and twice-filled, and neutral barrels, building layers of complexity rooted in both site and season.

IN THE GLASS

Blackberry, black currant, and ripe plum on the nose, layered with tobacco, wild cherry, and a whisper of toasted brioche. Rich and supple on the palate, with a velvety texture and well-integrated tannins that carry through to a smooth, polished finish.

AT THE TABLE

Seared duck breast with a cherry reduction. The richness of the duck enhances the wine's velvety texture, while the bright cherry glaze mirrors its notes of wild cherry and dark fruit. The savory depth of the dish beautifully complements the tobacco undertones and polished structure, creating a seamless, elegant finish.

