

# 2018 Division Cabernet Franc “Granit”

## Mae’s Vineyard

### Applegate Valley AVA

We love the Mae’s Vineyard (part of the Quady North Vineyards) in the Applegate Valley AVA in southern Oregon, and have worked with the grapes as the sole component of our Loire clones, dominated by a base of Cabernet Franc.

We’ve had the same block of the Mae’s Chinon clone (from the Loire Valley) Cabernet Franc since 2013 and believe it to be the best block of Cabernet Franc in the state of Oregon (that’s saying something!). Grower/Owner, Herb Quady is one the best growers in the region who is doing all the right things with the fantastic Oregon pink granite bedrock based soils.

The Quady site, which is farmed organically (certification in process) is relatively high in the hills above the Applegate river, and is generally warmer than the Willamette Valley. However, at high elevation, the Quady site is cooler and wetter than the Rogue Valley AVA at lower elevation and to the east.

His Mae’s Vineyard block slopes southeast into the Applegate Valley in one of the prettiest spots we’ve seen in the state. Loamy/clay and marine sediment overlay a large broken granite slab (yes granite!), which makes this a truly distinctive site to work with.

The 2018 vintage turned out to be a truly stellar year for making wines. After a long dry and hot stretch in July and early August, the heat broke at just the right time when veraison was occurring and the temps were mild during the day and cool at nights, with just the right amount of rain to keep things hydrated, all the way til harvest from mid-September to early October.

As has become our modus operandi for fermentations, we utilized the pied de cuve (native yeast build ups) technique to harness as much of the native yeast flora from the site to best express the sense of place each of these wines came from. Our 2018 Granit was aged in two neutral Burgundy barrels and two neutral Bordeaux barrels for the maximum textural benefit of oak aging without the “oakiness” seasoning of new barrels.

The 2018 Cabernet Franc “Granit” is a return to greatness after the wildfires influenced 2017 vintage. The nose offers dense floral notes followed by classic Cabernet Franc pyrazines, ripe raspberries and star anise! The palate delivers rich mineral “wet rock” notes, savory raspberry flavors, essence of pomegranate, and is complete in weight and texture.

**Alc - 13.6%, pH 3.68, 100 cases**

