



WINE:

2016 FIREBELLE

CLASSIFICATION:

LARKMEAD VINEYARDS

PRODUCTION:

1,293 CASES

VARIETAL COMPOSITION:

67% MERLOT

27% CABERNET SAUVIGNON

6% PETIT VERDOT

SOIL PROFILE:

PLEASANTON LOAM (CLAY)

ALCOHOL:

14.7%

FRENCH OAK AGING:

18 MONTHS, 66% NEW

TONNELLERIE BOSSUET

TASTING NOTES

Firebelle found its stride in 2016 due to the year's more moderate growing conditions. A slightly longer hang-time helped draw out the aroma profile on this wine, leading with red cherry and apple skin before descending gracefully to darker tones of plum and blueberries. Hints of incense and cola dance around semi-sweet chocolate notes as the perfume finishes with a gorgeous integration.

The complex aromas stem from the Cabernet Sauvignon while the palate of this wine is excitingly Merlot – open and supple, blue and resonant. The wine is broad and builds density in the mouth before it drops its fruit core for a dusty, bittersweet chocolate and cherry finish that bodes well for the ageability of this wine.

DRINKING WINDOW

An agile and buoyant wine, the 2016 Firebelle is easy to drink right now but will benefit by stripping its youthful skin and expose some of its secondary and tertiary notes that will begin when the wine reaches 5+ years post vintage. Drink now and for 15-20 years.