

chateau
TUMBLEWEED

2022 Sierra Bonita Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon

Background:

Sometime around 2012 or 2013, we snuck away from a wine festival booth and tasted Sierra Bonita Vineyard's Cabernet Sauvignon for the first time. We were blown away – thinking it might have been some of the best AZ Cab we had tasted up to that point (and quite possibly beyond). Since then, we'd been curious about this little vineyard – one of only a few situated north of Willcox in Graham County. This is now our fifth vintage working with this Cab Sauv, and we're still amazed at the depth and focus of fruit, intensity of spice and grippier palate we see in this varietal at SBV. This is AZ Cab at its finest! Only four barrels produced.

Varietal Composition and Appellation/Fruit Sourcing:

Willcox AVA – Graham County, AZ

*95+% Cabernet Sauvignon from Sierra Bonita Vineyard.
Graham County, AZ. 4,400 ft. elevation. Harvested Oct. 14th*

Sugar at harvest: 24.5 Brix

Cellar Notes:

Destemmed but not crushed to open-top, 1.5-ton bins.
Lot was left ~25% whole cluster.
Inoculated with specially selected yeasts (MT & V1116).
Hand punched 3-4 times daily.
Inoculated with Malolactic bacteria (Omega) around 8 Brix.
Pressed at dryness after 13 days average skin contact.
Settled 2 days before barreling.

Aging:

Aged 10 months in 100% neutral oak barrels.
Aged another 8 months in 25% 2-year-old French (Ermitage Cooperage) and 75% neutral oak barrels.
Thrice racked. Filtered, but unfinned.

Stats:

pH: 3.92
TA: 5.8 g/L
RS: <0.10%
Alcohol: 14.2%
Production: 99 cases
Drink now or cellar 6+ years
Winemaker: Joe Bechard

