

Bonny Doon A Proper Claret

Bonny Doon

United States - California

Some cautionary words: Bonny Doon Vineyard is, as we all know or should know, a strictly cabernet-free zone, at least it has been for the last twenty-nine years. The last "Claret" nominally produced at Bonny Doon Vineyard was in 1985 from grapes grown at our late Estate in the eponymous hamlet of Bonny Doon. It was a blend of approximately equal parts of cabernet sauvignon, cab. franc, merlot and malbec, and against all expectation, was actually pretty damn good.

Randall Grahm, owner and winemaker, has expressed indifference, occasionally bordering on amused disdain, for this popular grape variety. We are not really at liberty to say how Bonny Doon Vineyard has come to be entrusted with the distribution of a wine made from such improbably alien grape varieties, but suffice to say that the deal was doon grudgingly and harumphingly.

Tasting Notes

So, with these caveats, the sentiment at Bonny Doon Vineyard is that if we ever were to drink a cabernet-based blend, this would be one that would serve quite well. It is lean, neither overly alcoholic (weighing in at 13.2%) nor overly extracted, nor overly oak'd; it is precisely what one would imagine A Proper Claret to be. It is slightly ironic that the uber-negativity heaped upon the hapless Right Bank cepage, Merlot, from the film, "Sideways," has actually resulted in a tremendous overall improvement in California's extant plantings of the grape, and for that we have been the beneficiary. The characteristic softness of Merlot is certainly an important feature of this wine; the substantial dollop of Petit Verdot (24%) has added a silky note of violets and textural elegance. There is still a lovely minty, cedary aspect to this wine, reflective of its perfect balance, with nary a prunish note to be found.

Winemaker Notes

Now, as to the label. What can we say? We are just scandalized, sputteringly unable to countenance the opportunistic wine marketeers who would stoop to using lurid imagery merely to sell a bottle of wine. Has it really come to this? It is only because we enjoyed the wine so much that we are willing to put up with the tasteless monstrosity that is this label. "Proper" (!?!) Claret? Indeed.



Specifications

Varietals	40% Merlot, 24% Petit Verdot, 21% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc, 4% Malbec
Pairings	Proper (British) mutton, proper leg of lamb, (ideally served with proper Yorkshire pudding). All joking aside, this wine is delicious with a wild mushroom risotto, roasted turkey roulade, or smoked duck. As we head in the fall and winter months, this is absolutely the wine you'd want in your glass on a chilly evening by the fire.

Codes, Weights and Measures

UPC	7 69434 14822 0
Units/Case	12
Unit Size	750 mL
Container	bottle

SCC	1 07 69434 14822 7
Case Weight	37
Cases/Pallet	56
Layers/Pallet	14
ABV	13.20%
SRP	\$ 18.99 USD 750mL Bottle

Reviews and News

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