

WINEMAKER'S
NOTES



BOTTLED:
SPRING 2025

LANCASTER ESTATE
2023 SOPHIA'S HILLSIDE CUVÉE

Production: 389 cases
*Varietals: 89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Merlot,
5% Cabernet Franc*

Titratable Acidity: 5.27 g/L
pH: 3.63
Alcohol: 15.0%

OUR THOUGHTS...

Our 2023 Sophia's Hillside Cuvée is primarily composed of our young hillside blocks of Cabernet Sauvignon. The fruit from these estate vineyard blocks meld together to create a perfectly balanced, intense wine. It has the fruit-forward youthfulness and freshness of the young Cabernet Sauvignon that is softened and balanced by the French oak aging. Upon opening, deep aromas of ripe blackberry, cassis, and plum are intertwined with hints of graphite, tobacco, and a touch of violet. On the palate, it is full-bodied yet balanced, with rich flavors of dark fruit and baking spice, supported by velvety tannins and bright acidity. The oak adds layers of vanilla and toasted coconut, contributing to a long, structured finish with a touch of minerality.

VINTAGE AND ESTATE NOTES:

A wet winter and spring kept the vines dormant for a couple of weeks later than usual in 2023 which resulted in a later-than-usual harvest. The summer saw moderate heat with just a few days over 100 degrees. Cool mornings led to optimal ripening conditions.

COOPERAGE:

After primary fermentation in stainless steel tanks, the wine was underwent malolactic fermentation and aged sur lie in French oak for 18 months. We chose barrels from several coopers including Taransaud, Demptos, Saury and Bel Air. 30% of the barrels were new and all were coopered using a combination of Medium Plus, Medium Long and Heavy toast levels to provide better integration and balance.

