

WINEMAKER'S
NOTES



BOTTLED:
APRIL 11, 2023

LANCASTER ESTATE
2021 SOPHIA'S HILLSIDE CUVÉE

Production: 1,442 cases
*Varietals: 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Malbec,
3% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc,
2% Petit Verdot*

Titratable Acidity: 6.1 g/L
pH: 3.46
Alcohol: 15%

OUR THOUGHTS...

Our 2021 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 dark plum, black pepper, tobacco and clove fill the nose. The palate mirrors the aromas with additional notes of black cherry, leather and savory dried herbs. A soft mouthfeel and smooth, refined tannins linger on the lush finish.

VINTAGE AND ESTATE NOTES:

The winter of 2020-2021 had minimal rainfall and mild temperatures leading to drought conditions throughout California's North Coast. With a warmer than average winter and spring, budbreak was two weeks ahead of normal. Summer was warm and dry, with a few short heat spikes. The warm weather resulted in beautifully ripened fruit and a fairly early harvest.

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.

