



2012 Hesperian Cabernet Sauvignon

Kitoko Vineyard
Atlas Peak, Napa Valley

Description

2012 is the first vintage Philippe produced from Kitoko Vineyard. On release, the wine showed beautiful aromas of raspberry, blueberry, anise and spices. A big, powerful wine that retains a sense of balance and elegance, today the wine opens with a minty, mossy overtone, exhibiting notes of preserved plums, mulberry, and blackberry. Once a very tannic wine, its structure has served it well and it retains a youthful personality.

Vineyard

Kitoko Vineyard, named for the Congolese Lingala word for “beautiful,” is a 14.2 acre vineyard high on Atlas Peak, planted to Cabernet Sauvignon in 2000 and 2003.

The soils here are extremely rocky, dry, and poor, quite similar to Pritchard Hill to the north, studded with fractured andesite rock and boulders. The proximity to the San Pablo Bay brings persistent winds which—along with the heat and arid soil, cause the set of very small berries and loose bunches, and consistently delay ripening each year. Dry farming is not possible here, and the vines are watered for brief stretches to optimize ripening.

The Harvest

The weather in 2012 fluctuated a significantly. There were many ups and downs in temperature throughout the season, more so than usual. Even though bud break occurred late April, the vines caught up during the summer which allowed for normal harvest dates: late September to early October. It produced a structured wine that is yet light footed with a lot of red fruits.

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| ALCOHOL LEVEL: | 14.6% |
| CÉPAGE: | 100% Cabernet Sauvignon |
| ÉLEVAGE: | 20 Months in 70% new French oak |
| PRODUCTION: | 250 cases |
| OPTIMAL AGING: | 2020 – 2035 |

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 91 Points James Suckling