

# DAOU

## *Estate Collection Cabernet Franc Clone 17*

2023

Our founding passion for Bordeaux varieties from Paso Robles finds singular expression in this Cabernet Franc crafted exclusively from Clone 17.

Cabernet Franc is uniquely suited to the westside terroirs of Paso Robles, where limestone soils and tempering coastal breezes bring out its best. Chief Winemaker Daniel Daou values Clone 17 for its capacity to deliver a Cabernet Franc of roundness and finesse, creating a distinctive rendition of this iconic Bordeaux grape.

### Wine Profile

Deep purple-red hues anticipate a beautifully nuanced nose of blueberry, raspberry, cassis, caramel and tobacco intermingled with scents of baking spice, cocoa, dried herb and tea leaf. On the palate, clonal signatures of dark cherry, dried cranberry, leather, clove and graphite find added complexity with accents of pepper, cigar and sage. Medium-weight textures and brilliant tannins guide the wine to a long, elegant conclusion.

### The Vintage

The 2023 growing season was preceded by ample winter rainfall that ultimately exceeded 30 total inches on DAOU Mountain. The long winter and abundant precipitation led to a late bud break followed by moderate summer temperatures, with only three days exceeding 100 degrees on DAOU Mountain. These conditions allowed for a long hang time, with harvest starting a few weeks later than average. Finally, October brought a series of warm days that allowed for a perfect alignment of physiological and phenolic ripeness. Overall, the temperature pattern was similar to Bordeaux, but without any rain during the harvest months. The resulting 2023 vintage combines freshness and natural acidity with optimal flavor development and phenolic maturity.

### The Estate

Hailed decades earlier as a "jewel of ecological elements" by legendary winemaker André Tchelistcheff, DAOU Mountain was rediscovered by brothers Georges and Daniel Daou in 2007. Their quest for a sublime terroir ended here, on steep slopes that ascend to an elevation of 2,200 feet, all blessed with the type of calcareous clay soil found in the greatest appellations. DAOU Estate Collection wines have since grown to include our most treasured vineyard blocks, earning worldwide critical acclaim and redefining what is possible from Paso Robles.



#### Aging

21 months in 100% new French oak

#### Alcohol %

15.2%

#### Varietal

100% Cabernet Franc

#### Soil Profile

Calcareous clay and limestone

#### AVA

Adelaida District, Paso Robles