

# BARBOURSVILLE VINEYARDS OCTAGON



Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Dark garnet color. Aromas of lush, fresh fruit, emphasizing ripened cherry, with intense berry aroma. Fresh, young fruit flavor with coffee bean and chocolate. Very dry, seriously styled with an old world style. Youthful with moderate tannins. Impeccable balance and a nice finish.

A wine of highly distinctive character, achieved in blending estate-grown Bordeaux varietals, Octagon is created only in fine vintages, and with the most astute selection from the harvest. It is also the highest expression of the estate's European derivation and inspiration; a wine of unquestioned distinction and age worthiness in every incarnation. Barbourville Vineyards is situated on the broad, rolling plateau and foothills of the Southwest Mountains in the Virginia Piedmont, (In physical geography, piedmont, derived from "foot of the mount" in Latin languages, means a region of foothills of a mountain range) running parallel with the Blue Ridge to the west. Founded in 1976 by Gianni Zonin, where he had planted from scratch the first vineyards in Virginia in modern times, dedicated to the cultivation of European wine grapes, the 900 acre vineyard, of which 162 are in vine, occupies soils of varying mixes of red clay, generated from deterioration of volcanic soil from the Blue Ridge Mountains, and alluvial calcareous deposits and with sloping exposures of even greater variety. In the temperate mid-Atlantic weather of the region, the estate presents a dynamic mosaic of growing conditions.

Barbourville Vineyards is Virginia's first wine estate to be dedicated to growing European, *vitis vinifera* wine varietals in Virginia. Planted in 1976, the vineyard was founded and continues to be owned by Gianni Zonin from Gambellara, Italy, who is a 7th-generation winegrower and whose family's enterprise, Casa Vinicola Zonin, has been in viticulture since 1821. Barbourville is Zonin's sole winemaking endeavor outside of Italy. The property is the core of an extensive 18th Century Virginia plantation. Luca Paschina, Winemaker-General Manager since 1990, is a holder of a degree in oenology from Instituto Umberto in Alba. Paschina oversees day-to-day vineyard operations with viticulturist Fernando Franco, who has been at Barbourville since 1998. Their taste, bred of centuries of European custom, is for wine of great companionability with food, of elegant expression throughout a meal and, ideally, of longevity in the cellar, with harmonious balance. In Barbourville they explore the deeper story of what terroir, together with traditional winemaking techniques, reveal as unexpected or rarely expressed dimensions in several internationally esteemed wine varietals. All continue to unfold with ever-greater distinction.

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## *Tasting Note:*

### BARBOURSVILLE VINEYARDS OCTAGON

Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot & Cabernet Sauvignon. Fresh aromas of cherry & berries; flavors of fresh fruit with coffee bean & chocolate; dry, balanced & youthful; nice finish.

## *Shelf Talker:*

### BARBOURSVILLE VINEYARDS OCTAGON



Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot & Cabernet Sauvignon. Dark garnet color. Aromas of lush, fresh fruit, emphasizing ripened cherry, with intense berry aroma. Fresh, young fruit flavor with coffee bean & chocolate. Very dry & serious with an old world style. Youthful with moderate tannins. Impeccable balance & a nice finish. Virginia's first wine estate in modern times, dedicated to the cultivation of the European wine grape.

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