

2012 McCall Cabernet Franc Reserve

The 2012 Cabernet Franc Reserve is all Cab Franc, aged in a mixture of new (20%) and used (80%) French oak. Elegantly constructed, this is well on the graceful side in the mid-palate, but it has a fresh feel, a fine finish and a lively demeanor. It won't satisfy any desires for fat and easy, but if you like them structured and classic, this fits the bill well. It has little of that Cab Franc herbaceousness, but it shows a bit of licorice on the finish in its youth. The silky texture is enticing and it has enough of a backbone to allow it to age nicely. You can approach it now, although it is a bit tight, or wait a couple of years. It will be best in the short- to mid-term, however long it theoretically lasts.

McCall is a North Fork winery with a bit of a difference—the claim to fame is Pinot Noir. While the wines may not always have th...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

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2007 McCall Pinot Noir Reserve "Corchaug Estate"

The 2007 Pinot Noir Reserve "Corchaug Estate" was aged in French oak for 15 months (20% new, the rest used). Made by John Graziano (Millbrook) and Bob Cabral (formerly at Williams Selyem), this is another super Pinot Noir from McCall. A touch creamy up front, that blows off fast. Its main characteristics are earthiness and character, with a graceful, remarkably elegant mid-palate. There is an herbal touch on the finish as it airs. It delivers nice, but controlled flavor to the palate on the finish as well. It is meant to be complex, not a fruit bomb. Beautifully wrought (and adding much-needed extra layers of concentration to the regular, 2012 Pinot reviewed this issue), this is remarkably fine, a tribute to this winery's commitment to this grape. It is a bit pricey—but it is also quite well done. There were 290 cases produced.

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2013 McCall Chardonnay "Unoaked"

The 2013 Chardonnay "Unoaked" comes in at 12.8% alcohol. This is a lighter-style, entry-level white. Lacking some concentration and verve, it nonetheless exceeds expectations by accentuating the positives. Granting a certain delicacy here, it is fresh, clean, flavorful and appealing, an easy-drinker that is hard to resist in the short-term. In that regard, this beautifully balanced young Chard should be consumed young, no matter how long it theoretically lasts. There were 190 cases produced.

McCall is a North Fork winery with a bit of a difference—the claim to fame is Pinot Noir. While the wines may not always have the concentration of high-end Burgundy, they sure get most of the classic nuances just right. In a region where almost no one thinks Pinot Noir is anything to hang a hat on, the McCalls do, led by owner Russell McCall, son B...

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2013 McCall Nicola's Sauvignon Blanc

The 2013 Nicola's Sauvignon Blanc is unoaked. Focused, reasonably concentrated and showing some of those green notes for which the grape is known, this is a friendly Sauvignon without a lot of zest, but a certain viscosity and plenty of nuanced flavors on the finish. Enjoy this while it is young for best results. There were 320 cases produced.

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2014 McCall Marjorie's Rose

The 2014 Marjorie's Rose is a Merlot with 5% Sauvignon Blanc. Unoaked, it comes in at 12.8% alcohol. Showing reasonably good concentration for a pink, this has good flavor, a dry, moderately crisp demeanor and a bit of spice in the background and on the nose, perhaps the influence of the Sauvignon Blanc interacting with the Merlot. In its youth, this is both refreshing and sturdy. As it aired, I especially liked that its underlying steel came out. It should make a great drink this summer and probably next, but the younger it is consumed the better. There were 830 cases produced.

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2012 McCall Pinot Noir "Corchaug Estate"

The 2012 Pinot Noir "Corchaug Estate" (planted in 1997, this is the largest Pinot Noir vineyard on Long Island) comes in at 12.8% alcohol. It was aged for 15 months in oak, 20% new, the rest used. It was made by John Graziano (Millbrook) and Bob Cabral (formerly of Williams Selyem). This doesn't have much depth or concentration, its biggest limitation, but everything else is startlingly right if you like Burgundy. It is a dead ringer for a classic Burgundy, most likely a well made Bourgogne Rouge. Crisp and elegant, it has an earthy edge, but bright, purity of fruit in the mid-palate to the point where it hardly seems oaked at times. It is a wonderful food wine with plenty in the aromatics department. It is easily the best bargain of the group of Pinots presented this issue. All I can say is this: put this in a blind tasting of everyday B...

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2012 McCall Pinot Noir "Hillside - Corchaug Estate"

The 2012 Pinot Noir "Hillside - Corchaug Estate" is from the Hillside Block of Corchaug Estate. It was aged for 15 months in French oak (20% new, the rest used) and comes in at 12.6% alcohol. Not showing the mid-palate concentration and focus that the Reserves reviewed this issue show, this also lacks the aromatic complexity of the regular 2012 Pinot Noir, that earthiness with a hint of game. Not that there isn't some of that, but the regular Pinot Noir actually shows more and more penetration on the finish while this seems just a touch flat at times. This Hillside Block is pleasant enough—it is structured and still pretty nice—but it has less character than the regular 2012 and not much more concentration, if any; and it is nowhere near the concentration level of the Reserves. It would be my least favorite of the group submitted this iss...

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2010 McCall Ben's Blend

The 2010 Ben's Blend is 60% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc, 10% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, coming in at 13.1% alcohol. It was aged in a 75/25 mixture of used and new French oak. The "Ben" in question was the late, former vineyard manager Ben Sisson. Showing far less concentration than the 2010 Merlot, also reviewed, but seeming a bit juicier and more open, this is pleasing, with tasty fruit on the finish and some tannic pop creeping up with aeration. It lacks concentration and persistence, though. It still has enough structure to age, but it can be approached now and it is tasting quite fine at the moment. There were 470 cases produced.

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2010 McCall Merlot Reserve "Corchaug Estate Vineyard"

The 2010 Merlot Reserve "Corchaug Estate Vineyard" was aged in a mixture of new (25%) and used (75%) French oak for 16 months. It comes in at 13.1% alcohol. Sure, why would you want a low-alcohol, East Coast Merlot? Can't be ripe enough, can't be any good. However, this is reasonably priced, graceful, beautifully structured, very focused and surprisingly expressive after some 40 minutes of aeration. It unfolded nicely and showed a crisp and lively finish, laced with fruit flavor. On the leaner, more structured side, this is not exactly fat, sweet and fleshy Merlot. It still has good fruit and drinks beautifully, a classic food wine that also tastes pretty good. As it airs out for another 40 minutes, it doesn't fade. If anything, it gets better in its understated style. It will never make you say "wow," but it will always make you want to ...

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2010 McCall Pinot Noir Reserve "Corchaug Estate"

The 2010 Pinot Noir Reserve "Corchaug Estate" was aged for 15 months in French oak (20% new, the rest used) and comes in at 12.8% alcohol. Made by John Graziano (Millbrook) and Bob Cabral (formerly at Williams Selyem), this Reserve is different than this issue's regular 2012 Corchaug Pinot Noir, the winery said. Owner Russell McCall said: "2010 was a better, drier, warmer vintage on Long Island than 2012. The fruit selection in '10 included considerably less clone "Pommard 4," while in 2012 we didn't feel we had the quality necessary for a Reserve wine, and the regular McCall PN contained more clone 4, which is very pretty but lighter in body." Well, apart from the geeky details, which some of you Burg lovers may love, this is rather amazing as a Long Island Pinot Noir. Opening with classic aromatics, including a hint of game, this procee...

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