

2012 Onabay Vineyards Merlot Great Blue Heron

The 2012 Merlot "Great Blue Heron" is a blend of three clones. It also has 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Malbec added in. It comes in at 13.5% alcohol. This has all the trappings of a really nice house pour. It has structure and a bright, lively feel to it. No, it's not the fleshiest or most concentrated wine, but it does have flavor intensity on the finish, some finesse and it is just a lot of fun. Perky and a touch creamy, it drinks great. There were 234 cases produced.

Importer(s):

Skurnik Wines, Inc., 48 West 25th Street ninth floor New York NY 10010, (516) 677-9300, www.skurnikwines.com

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

2012 Onabay Vineyards Night Heron Cabernet Franc

The 2012 Night Heron Cabernet Franc also has 3% Cabernet Sauvignon and 1% Petit Verdot. It was aged for 17 months in French oak (40% new, the rest 2- to 3 years old). It comes in at 13.8% alcohol. Adding a layer of depth to the Cot-Fermented Cabernet Franc, this is much along the same lines—but more concentration, more velvety texture, more character and better balance. It doesn't have a whole lot of Cab Franc character early on, but some herbaceous hints begin to pop up in time. As between this and the Cot-Fermented, there is not much issue which is better. They both started well, but this held its own over a couple of hours while the Cot-Fermented declined. This is easily worth the uptick in price. Blended from two parcels (one planted in 2006, the other in 2001), there were only 103 cases produced.

Importer(s):

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

2013 Onabay Vineyards Yellow Crown Chardonnay

The 2013 Yellow Crown Chardonnay is mostly unoaked, although 10% was stored in well-used French oak. It comes in at 13% alcohol. Fruity and very tasty, this fresh, young Chardonnay is nicely done. It is not particularly profound or intense. It just tastes great for early consumption. However long it theoretically lasts, drink it young and you likely will think it exceeds expectations. There were 238 cases produced.

Importer(s):

Skurnik Wines, Inc., 48 West 25th Street ninth floor New York NY 10010, (516) 677-9300, www.skurnikwines.com

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

2012 Onabay Vineyards Cot-Fermented Cabernet Franc

The 2012 Cot-Fermented Cabernet Franc also has 15% Malbec blended in. It was aged for 17 months in used French oak and comes in at 13.3% alcohol. This has only a bit of Cab Franc character, but it compensates with its graceful presentation, lively demeanor and nice structure. There is a real backbone, with moderately ripe tannins, and some grip on the finish. About an hour of air changes this dramatically, however. The tannins fall off, but so does the mid-palate concentration. Granting that it is more of a value-priced wine, there were some moments when this was more impressive, but it did not demonstrate much persistence. Note: winemaker John Leo said to me regarding the name that: "Cot- Fermented means that we harvested two rows of Malbec with the Cabernet Franc block, destemmed it together and fermented it together in the same tank. ...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission