

2012 Osprey's Dominion Vineyards Malbec

The 2012 Malbec also has 18% Merlot and 4% Tannat blended in, aged for 20 months in French oak, 20% used. The winery has only about 100 vines of Tannat, I'm told, which "we bin ferment. An homage to the Cahors region." Smooth and caressing in texture, this shows its oak, but has pleasing fruit and a nice, house wine feel to it. There is not much mid-palate concentration, but it has reasonable structure, tastes great and goes down easy. The lack of concentration means that this will not reward aging, however long it theoretically lasts, but I will say it improved a bit over the course of an hour, showing a bit better focus and a little more intensity. This will be released in September. There were 130 cases produced.

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- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

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2013 Osprey's Dominion Vineyards Pinot Gris Reserve

The 2013 Pinot Gris Reserve is unoaked. This is a very respectable expression of Pinot Gris, solid in the mid-palate, juicy on the finish and showing more than a little tension. It has a dark and burnished feel to it, but it is quickly enlivened by the nice acidity on the finish. For the very reasonable price, it should easily exceed expectations if you prefer your wines on the crisp and steelier side. As it warmed and aired out, it just got better. There were 145 cases produced.

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2010 Osprey's Dominion Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon

The 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon also has 24% Merlot blended in. It was aged for 16 months in American Oak, only 25% new. Fresh and straightforward, this nonetheless drinks extremely well as it has a lively feel and it handles its oak well. I found myself liking it a lot as a friendly house pour, granting that there are some obvious limitations to the wine in terms of concentration. Early on, there is a bit more power than there is concentration; it did have some astringency on the finish. That does ameliorate with aeration. Meanwhile, it retained its complexity and maturing Bordeaux feel. It is long on charm, if short on that concentration level. All things considered, for the price, this is a pretty tasty bargain in a Cab that gives you a real wine feel, some liveliness, structure and complexity, without a lot of fuss.

Osprey's Dominion ...

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2012 Osprey's Dominion Vineyards Petite Verdot Reserve

The 2012 Petite Verdot Reserve (yes, that is how it is spelled on the label), the first such bottling the winery has produced, also has 18% Merlot blended in. It was aged for 20 months in French oak (17% used). This creates somewhat mixed feelings. It is a moderately easygoing wine that still has some structure, but not a lot of character or anything resembling real concentration. It has its moments, and it is cleaner in aromatics than many vegetal Petit Verdots. It should make a nice house pour, but it may be a touch pricey for what it is.

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2010 Osprey's Dominion Vineyards Flight Meritage

The 2010 Flight Meritage is the winery's Bordeaux blend: 51% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, 29% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Petit Verdot. It was aged for 26 months in French oak, only 34% new. Showing many of the same sensibilities as the Cabernet Reserve, this nod to Bordeaux's Right Bank fulfills its mission well. It has some "old school" ideas, including somewhat harder tannins and a fresh feel. It comes around well with aeration, though. The concentration level is adequate, but no more, which sets a ceiling for the wine. Still, the price is reasonable and there is some good drinking here. Overall, it should make a great food wine and it can still improve with cellaring. This was scheduled for release in July, 2015. I am always conservative in drinking windows, but it should age nicely for the next decade or so, perhaps more. There were 552 ca...

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2010 Osprey's Dominion Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve

The 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve is not entirely a monovarietal, as there is 12% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot blended in. It was aged for 20 months in a mixture of French and American Oak (only one-third new). Produced only in the best years, says the winery, a Reserve has only been declared previously in 1995 and 2000. It is sourced mostly from vines planted in 1990. What do you get by upgrading from the regular Cab (also reviewed this issue)? Well, as you can tell by the note, I liked that regular Cab quite a bit for how it shows right now. This has a bit less complexity at the moment, but it clearly has more concentration and a lot more power. It is likely to age better. The texture is also more on the velvety than the fresh side, no doubt due to the extra time in oak. It mostly handles well at this point in its development. This w...

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2010 Osprey's Dominion Vineyards Cabernet Franc

The 2010 Cabernet Franc also has 17% Merlot blended in. It was aged in barrels for 16 months (only 17% new). A sensually-textured Cab Franc on opening, this is initially caressing and balanced. While not particularly concentrated, it is elegant and flavorful, with some of those typical Cab Franc hints of green. It is nicely priced, too. Mark this for early consumption, however long it theoretically holds. If it opened beautifully, it was not quite as interesting (although it was far more intense) some 75 minutes later. There were 899 cases produced.

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2012 Osprey's Dominion Vineyards Carmenere

The 2012 Carmenere also has 24% Merlot blended in. It was aged for 20 months in French Oak (half in second-use barrels). A bit of a curiosity, this Carmenere is "the only ... varietal Carmenere in New York State." It is interesting at times, and the fruit lingers nicely, although it is obscured a bit by oak every now and then. The mid-palate concentration is very modest, though. It is lean and also a touch acidic, giving it some sharp edges and an angular feel. It does have some merits, but it really needs food and a bit more concentration. Drink it young as its mid-palate will not likely reward aging. There were 192 cases produced.

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**2012 Osprey's Dominion Vineyards
Gewurztraminer**

The 2012 Gewürztraminer is unoaked and dry. It comes in at 12% alcohol. Given the price point, this is a nice deal. Granted that there is not a lot of concentration here or much intensity, it has plenty of Gewurz character, those classic, lychee nuances. Fresh, dry and a bit spicy, it drinks great right now. There is no point to holding it, however long it theoretically lasts. There were 158 cases produced.

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Many of the selection here could use more

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**2013 Osprey's Dominion Vineyards
Sauvignon Blanc**

The 2013 Sauvignon Blanc is unoaked. This is a nice bargain for a white with a fresh feel. Rather on the vegetal than merely grassy side, this shows strong herbaceous nuances and perhaps a touch of smoke. Overall, it still winds up showing well, nicely constructed and refreshing, with a reasonably solid mid-palate. Not particularly expressive, though, it is a bit restrained in the type of aromatics purist fans of this grape love. At the price point, though, it will still have many fans.

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**2010 Osprey's Dominion Vineyards Merlot
Reserve**

The 2010 Merlot Reserve is, like its Cabernet sibling also reviewed this issue, only produced in what the winery considers exceptional years, in this case: 2002, 2005, 2007, 2010 and 2012. Sourced solely from Merlot vines planted in the early to mid-90s, it was aged for 20 months, barrel aged in French, only 24% new. Quite lovely, this opens up with some oak-induced fragrance, but it smooths out pretty fast. Adding a little concentration to the regular Merlot (also reviewed this issue) and a bit more power, it retains some elegance and its balance. It still won't remind anyone of a seriously concentrated wine, but its ideas are all good here and it drinks beautifully.

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2010 Osprey's Dominion Vineyards Merlot

The 2010 Merlot also has 16% Cabernet Franc and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, all aged for 18 months in French oak (only 25% new). This is very appealing in its fresh and fruity way. With a little complexity on the finish and ripe tannins, it drinks well at an affordable price point. Granted, there is not a lot of concentration, but it does have structure and seems like real wine. It's a pretty good deal for a Merlot that seems to be aging gracefully.

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