



GROWING SEASON NOTES

The 2021 growing season in the Tephra Ridge Vineyard was marked by early bud break and a lighter-than-average crop. Spring conditions prompted bud break slightly earlier than usual, and wind and light rain during flowering may have contributed to smaller cluster sizes. These lighter clusters facilitated steady ripening and an early harvest, with most areas completing harvest by early October.

VINEYARD NOTES

Tephra ("ash" in Greek) is rock ejected by volcanic eruption. This steep, 35-acre historic vineyard rises to 1,800 feet in elevation at the north foothill of Howell Mountain. Its thin, gravelly loam and volcanic soils typify the finest Bordeaux variety sites, as do its climate, topography and vegetation - fir, madrone, black oak and ponderosa pine - yielding a rustic fruit profile.

WINEMAKING NOTES

The grapes for the Old Soldier Red Blend were picked were hand-harvested separately and destemmed into stainless steel tanks for fermentation. Post-pressing and Malolactic fermentation, the wines were aged in barrels for 10 months before assemblage. Post-blending, the wine was aged for another 12 months in barrels prior to bottling.

TASTING NOTES

The 2021 Tephra Ridge Old Soldier Road blend shows dark characteristics of dried fruit, black currant, fig, cocoa and violets. This full-bodied wine boosts notes of fresh tobacco and baking spices on the palate.

VARIETALS:	59 Merlot, 24% Petit Verdot, 17% Cabernet Sauvignon
APPELLATION:	Lake County, California
VINEYARD:	Tephra Ridge Vineyard
ALCOHOL %:	14.5 %
AGING:	22 months barrel aged, 30% new French oak
T/A:	5.8 g/l
pH:	3.76
ACCOLADES:	90 Pts. Wine Enthusiast