

# THE MASCOT

## OUR STORY

The Mascot is a Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon made from distinct hillside vineyards; specifically the younger vines of BOND, Harlan Estate, and Promontory. It started out as a small project shared among the family, winemaking team, and close friends. Drawing fruit from blocks of recently replanted vineyards, The Mascot shares a glimpse into the evolution of its parent estates: a youthful snapshot of their future.

With the 2008 vintage the family had enough wine - 500 cases - to introduce the endeavor to the outside world; releasing the first bottles in 2013. An athletic balance of energy and density, The Mascot is expressive and approachable early in its life with potential to evolve long into the future.

## 2019 VINTAGE NOTES

Winter leading into the 2019 growing season delivered impressive rainfall (nearly 30 inches in the first four months) that lasted into May. The cool, wet spring delayed budbreak; yet this respite in a sequence of mostly arid years imbued the young vines with renewed energy. This potential for vigor required thorough and thoughtful pruning, early in the season, to ensure that energy would be most nobly directed: to maturing the fruit. Early autumn was met with even and steady warmth, and picking commenced in mid-September and stretched across five and a half weeks. This “leisurely” approach allowed for collection of the fruit in precise, well-delineated passes, and the wine extracted from these berries confirmed our decision to, in places, wait a little longer. The wine is beautifully supple with a broadly fanned aromatic spectrum and an effortless depth of fruit. From a center point on the palate, the 2019 vintage undulates outward in all directions. Gentle, velvety swells pause and fold in on themselves, their liquid whorls of refined tannin and gratifying acidity gliding across the surface of smooth curves before retreating gradually to reveal, on the finish, the burnished dimensions beneath.

**VARIETAL:** Cabernet Sauvignon

**APPELLATION:** Napa Valley

**PRODUCTION:** 8,000 cases

**ABV:** 14.5%



# THE MASCOT

The Mascot is a Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon made from distinct hillside vineyards: specifically, the younger vines of Harlan Estate, BOND, and Promontory. Founded by Will Harlan, it began as a small, informal project shared among the family, the winemaking team, and a handful of close friends. Drawing fruit from recently replanted blocks within the vineyards, The Mascot reveals its distinguished pedigree while offering insight into the evolution of its parent properties: a youthful promise of their future.

## WINEMAKER

Each of the three “parent” properties contributes components to The Mascot, and the winemaking teams - led by Cory Empting, Director of Winegrowing for the family domain - work collaboratively to weave together the final blend.

## VARIETAL

Depending on the vintage, The Mascot is composed of 85-95% Cabernet Sauvignon, along with small quantities of Cabernet Franc, Merlot, and Petit Verdot.

## TERROIR

The Mascot is crafted from the younger vines of the three parent properties. Within the Napa Valley, hillside vineyards make up a miniscule percentage of planted acreage. The Harlan family has spent the past 40 years identifying the very finest and rarest of these sites.

## FARMING

The vines that contribute to The Mascot average from 5 to 12 years of age. As the vines of the parent properties are replanted approximately twice per century—or the equivalent of around 2% of acreage per year—the supply of young vines is continually replenished. Many young vines are beginning to manifest now; as a result of replanting at Harlan Estate and BOND starting more than a decade ago, and at Promontory since it was acquired in 2008.

In this process, vines are pulled and replanted with a cover crop that supports the soil ecosystem—all without tilling. This ensures that conditions found in the mature vineyard are maintained, allowing continuity between the “generations” of plantings. In this way, when young vines begin to root, they can connect to a much wiser, well-structured network of microorganism and nutrient pathways.

Waiting three years for rootstocks to establish themselves before grafting allows the plant to focus on root-growth during this critical stage. Although this delays production by a few years, when the vines finally do produce a crop, the fruit has a superior balance of tannin and acidity. The focus on cultivating the root system has also allowed us to begin dry farming very early in the vine’s lifecycle, which gives our wine greater purity and distinction.

The vineyard teams farm each plot of land in a highly individualized manner through a program called the “Vine Masters.” Over the course of a five to ten year apprenticeship, these team members earn the right to oversee a portion of the vineyard for which they are solely responsible. The Vine Masters tend to these blocks as their own personal gardens, treating each plant independently, allowing each vine to reach its greatest potential for quality, character, and longevity.

## WINEMAKING

The winemaking teams vinify the grapes from each property in accordance with the character of their land. For aging the wines, Harlan Estate and BOND use new and neutral French oak barrels, while Promontory employs larger casks made of Austrian oak.

The winemaking teams evaluate the young-vine lots at the blending table between 6 and 14 months after fermentation, selecting the finest for inclusion in The Mascot. In total, The Mascot is aged in barrel for nearly three years prior to bottling and another 18 months in bottle prior to release.

**THE MASCOT**  
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**BOND  
PLURIBUS**

**BOND  
MELBURY**

**BOND  
QUELLA**

ST HELENA

RUTHERFORD

**BOND  
ST. EDEN**

OAKVILLE

**HARLAN ESTATE**

**BOND  
VECINA**

YOUNTVILLE

**PROMONTORY**

