

Lady of the Dead

BY FRIAS

Oh Catrina. She's an alluring, sexy, Lady.
And the 2018 Cab-Blend does not disappoint.
She's a sell-out in the best possible way.

Dias de los Muertos – Days of the Dead
October 31-November 2

The 2018 **Lady of the Dead** features a mix of wild, brambly dark fruit, lavender, fig, plum, garrigue, and cardamom. The freshness of fruit and balance on the palate belies its full-bodied character yet shows an overall seamlessness and sweetness of fruit, good acidity, and spiciness that carries to a long finish.

THE DETAILS

VARIETAL: 66% CABERNET/22% SYRAH/5% PETITE SIRAH/3% CARIGNAN/3% MOURVEDRE/1% GRACIANO

ALCOHOL: 14.5%

pH: 3.7

TA: 6.24

CASES: 1,449

MSRP: \$55

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

The grapes for these wines were chosen by discerning hands in the vineyard, when they were harvested from October 22-29, 2018. They were hand sorted twice in the winery to make sure only the best reached the fermentation tank. Once in the tank, the grapes sat cold a few days, developing color, flavor, and aroma, before starting to ferment. The tank was gently punched down and pumped over for 18 days to carefully extract all of the best qualities from the grapes. The juice was drained and skins pressed before being filled into barrels. The wine finished a native malolactic fermentation in the barrels in about two months and was aged 19 months in small French oak barrels before bottling in May 2020.

The 2018 vintage was the embodiment of the adage slow and steady wins the race. It was rather unusual in that the fruit was both plentiful and delicious, similar to the 2012 vintage. We saw near perfect weather from veraison to harvest, as a few heat spikes in early August led to an even and moderate fall. The extended hang time allowed the grapes to develop a finesse and silkiness in tannin that is unmatched in recent vintages. Decant to enjoy now; best 2022 -2026.

THE FRIAS FAMILY

In 1977, our family purchased 100 acres in the iconic Spring Mountain District of Napa Valley. We planted just 5 acres in 1985 and launched FRIAS Family Vineyard with our first vintage in 1991. FRIAS now has only 13 acres of hillside vineyards planted to Cabernet Sauvignon. We source premium fruit from Oakville & Yountville AVAs.

Second generation brothers Fernando and Manny Frias Jr. are at the helm of this artisanal family winery. Todd Heth has been our winemaker since 2004.



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