

SARACINA

SKID ROW MALBEC 2016

BACKGROUND

Saracina is located along the Upper Russian River in northern California's wine country. The 400-acre ranch which includes a winery and sustainably farmed vineyards, is also home to a 140-year-old olive trees, vegetable gardens, beehives, and local birds and wildlife. The handcrafted, limited production Saracina wines reflect a conscious sense of this beautiful place in Mendocino County. Founded by husband and wife team John Fetzer and Patty Rock in 2001, Saracina has always been defined by a strong sense of family. In 2018, Marc Taub took on stewardship of Saracina, upholding the spirit of family ownership that has defined this iconic Mendocino County winery since inception.

APPELLATION

Mendocino County, California

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

100% Malbec

TERROIR & VINTAGE NOTES

Planted in 1999 and farmed organically from the outset, Skid Row Vineyard is the westernmost block on the Saracina Ranch, marked by black clay and gravelly soils at the base of the foothills. The plant material is the original Bordeaux clone 4. It is significant not for what it produces, but for what it doesn't. It is the lowest-yielding commercial Malbec clone available, and on the property typical yields are one and a half tons per acre. It produces concentrated fruit without the need to pick at ultra-high sugars. The vineyard was named "Skid Row" for the tracks carved into the surrounding hillsides in the late 19th and early 20th centuries by donkeys dragging logs down to the vineyard site, where they were collected to fire the furnaces for hop barns in the course of making beer.

WINEMAKING

The wine underwent malolactic fermentation in Taransaud barrels, 15% new, and then rested on light lees for 19 months.

TASTING NOTES

Ultra-deep garnet in color, this lovely California rendition of Malbec reveals black plum and blueberry fruits with a cedar note in the background. The palate is polished, with round tannins and great depth of flavor.



WINEMAKER

Alex MacGregor

TECHNICAL DATA

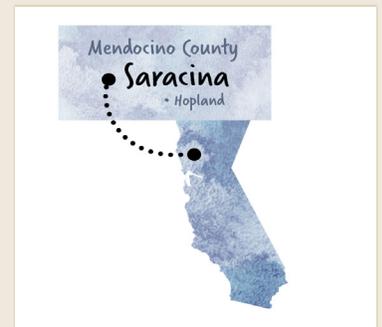
Alcohol
14.5%



SARACINA
M E N D O C I N O



92 WINE ENTHUSIAST
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