



2019

INAUGURAL RELEASE

A BLEND OF 40% CABERNET SAUVIGNON,
36% MERLOT & 24% PETIT VERDOT

CABERNET SAUVIGNON: BLOCK: 11B :: CLONE: 7
CABERNET SAUVIGNON: BLOCK: 3C :: CLONE: 337
MERLOT: BLOCK: 8 :: CLONE: 181
PETIT VERDOT: BLOCK: 12 :: FORMAN CLONE

DEGRADED TUFA TO SANDY LOAM SOILS
HILLSIDE SLOPE :: 800 FEET
EAST SIDE SLOPE, WEST/NORTHWEST FACING

2019 VINTAGE
14.8% ALCOHOL :: 6 BARRELS
WINEMAKER: MASSIMO MONTICELLI

BRION

PROPRIETARY RED

ECOTONE VINEYARD

NAPA VALLEY

Respect. History. Highest Quality. Singularity.

When he first heard about Ecotone Vineyard, all of these qualities stood out for Brion Wise. Then an opportunity arose to make wine from this place, and there was no question for him that he would jump in. It is rarefied ground. Planted in 1990 by master vineyardist David Abreu, Ecotone has occupied a well-regarded niche within the wine community, from sommeliers and collectors to critics and colleagues.

Located in the “ecotone” between the valley and the mountain, as the name implies, this vineyard occupies one of those middle spaces, sometimes referred to as benchlands, becoming increasingly recognized as sources of some of the best fruit in the Napa Valley, arguably in the world.

Many rare qualities come together in this 22-acre site located above the valley floor at 800 feet on a secluded slope between St. Helena and Howell Mountain. The plantings were deliberately selected in order to create a classic proprietary Bordeaux-style blend. The Ecotone Proprietary Red exemplifies Brion’s ideal wine, a combination of science and magic: a wine of the world that can only come from a well-chosen site that has been meticulously farmed.

With this inaugural release, the 2019 vintage shows notable texture, depth, and complexity. The two Cabernet clones are in their full power, intense and deeply stony, while the Merlot provides its aromatic lift, with violet scents and an underlying minerality coming from the Petit Verdot. With these complex and inviting aromatics, a robust tannic structure, and a bright mineral quality throughout the long finish, this is a bold and intriguing wine.

—brionwines.com—