

HAPPY CANYON VINEYARD



2007 BARRACK "BRAND"

(250 six pack cases produced)

The 2007 vintage was extraordinary in every way. It was one of the coolest growing seasons in the areas history. A rainless, cold winter resulted in a late bud break which led to lower yields. The ripening of fruit was slow and steady which allowed us to pick at the peak in terms of flavor. Every pick was just about perfect - desired brix, perfect pH, and stunning flavors. The BRAND blend is mostly Merlot with dash of Cabernet Franc and a pinch of Cabernet Sauvignon. The Merlot vines are from two clones planted side by side at the very top of a high plateau which offers 360 degree views of the neighboring vineyards below. The 2007 is a dark and concentrated merlot that was aged for two years in Taransaud French oak barrels and for a year in bottle before release. It is a classic. The wine has a very fine nose with hints of blackberry, plum, oak wood, mocha, vanilla and currants. On the palate it is very diverse from front to back with intense fruit, hints of espresso, herbs, and tobacco. The wine caresses the mouth. The Merlot is blended with just enough stern Cabernet Sauvignon and spicy Cabernet Franc to make a wine that will improve in the short term but will be at it best in 7 to 10 years.

