

CABERNET FRANC WILLOW VINEYARD 2021

East side of Seneca Lake (Lodi)

*Soils: Aurora and Farmington silt loam
on shale*

Elevation: 725ft

Aspect: west-facing

Year Planted: 2014

Harvest Date: October 24, 2021

Spontaneous fermentation in wooden vat

ALC: 13%

Production: 286 cases

TASTING NOTES

blueberry, lavender, luminescent

Disciplined and studious, Willow Cabernet Franc is a master of its craft. Innately complex and imaginative, it continues to broaden and fine-tune its technique each vintage. In our third year producing this wine, we have witnessed it respond to three very different types of vintages with great poise: the hot yet moderately balanced 2019 vintage, the sun-drenched and rain-parched days of 2020, and finally one of the wettest years on record in 2021. As one of the plots newer to our collection, it's a definite reassurance and sign of great vines tended to with care.

In comparison to our other Cabernet Franc *lieux-dits*, Willow is a bit more nimble and sultry on the palate in the way it tickles the senses, moving in a calm and calculated manner.

Willow rests in the heart of 250 acres of grapes planted by five generations of the Wagner family. Along with the fascinating natural history of the Finger Lakes, we must not forget about the people that have brought this region to life, cultivating a community indebted to the hard work of these pioneers.

Willow is among three distinct sites farmed by John Wagner that we work with consistently: Willow, Railroad, and Wagner Caywood East. John is a fourth generation grape-grower, and it was his father, Bill Wagner who was among the first wave of farmers to construct a winery when the Farm Winery Act of 1976 was passed. In the middle of an old horse pasture, he dug a subterranean wine cellar and expanded his varietally diverse vineyards.

Without the ingenuity of native multi-generational farmers like the Wagners, we could not paint such a vivid narrative of Seneca Lake. Many of the stories shared throughout the region (and many that we share with you) are passed on from generations of families who helped give this land voice and care for it as kin.

