

Hudson Valley Cabernet Franc Coalition

As I am writing this first edition of this book I was honored to participate in a Hudson Valley Cabernet Franc tasting. I have to admit, Cabernet Franc is one of my favorite varietals, especially the ones that hail from the east coast cool climates. I love the black pepper spice on the finish, and that it's not a fruit bomb. It's elegant and exciting.

The Hudson Valley grape growers, winemakers and researchers from Cornell University, have been conducting extensive research on the Cabernet Franc grape. After many years of research, they found that Cabernet Franc really thrives in the Hudson Valley and they have designated it their “Flagship Wine.”

The Hudson Valley Cabernet Franc Coalition was founded in the spring 2016 by Doug and MaryEllen Glorie, owners of Glorie Farm Winery, along with Linda Pierro and Robert Bedford of *Hudson Valley Wine Magazine*. The coalition consists of about two dozen area winemakers and grape growers who have committed to putting Cabernet Franc in the forefront of the region, supporting it with ongoing discussions and research on how and where it grows best. Most of all, to plant more.

One of the reasons Cabernet Franc grows so well in the Hudson Valley is that it can handle the cold weather. Cabernet Franc can handle temperatures below zero, usually to about minus nine, and there have been times in the Hudson Valley when it really does get that cold.

Hudson Valley grape growers have found through research with

Cornell that managing the grape canopy and getting rid of some leaves early enhances the grape to ripen accordingly. Allowing the sun to reach the grapes during veraison has eliminated the methoxypyridines (green pepper, vegetal notes) that were found in the wine. This is a key to producing a great Cabernet Franc.

What can you expect from Hudson Valley Cabernet Franc? Expressions of violets, raspberry, strawberry, blackberry, tea, tannins, oak, and closing with a gentle burst of black pepper.