

# BLACK ANKLE

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*vineyards*

## Slate Background Information

**Slate background Info:** Slate is a non-vintage blend that first appeared on our tasting menu in Fall, 2011. That first release of Slate was drawn from the 2007 and 2008 vintages, with a bit of 2010 in to bring in some freshness in the fruit. While it tasted like a classic Bordeaux style blend, it had 31% Syrah in the blend. Since that time, Slate has been made using solely our Bordeaux grapes. Slate is made using the more tannic, pressed wine, which leads to a longer time aging in barrel to smooth out those tannins. To date, we have released 5 iterations of Slate; with Slate 6 ready to make its appearance sometime in 2020.

**Non-vintage defined:** The grapes used in the wine were harvested from multiple years (vintage years); and none of the vintage years is at the minimum requirement for labeling (85%).

**Pressed Wine:** After the red wines are fermented, the wine is drained off the skins and put into barrel (for malolactic fermentation and aging). The skins are loaded into our press and are gently pressed. That final press wine is the most tannic and goes into its own barrels and often goes into our Slate or Feldspar after malolactic fermentation and aging.

**Slate 1** bottled / release date: released November 2011

**Slate 2** bottled / release date: released August 2014 (blended from 2010 and 2011 wines)

**Slate 3** bottled / released date: Spring 2017 / May 2017

**Slate 4** bottled / released date: Spring 2018 / Fall 2018

**Slate 5** bottled / released date: Spring 2019 / November 2019

**Slate 6** bottled / release date: Spring 2019 / tbd 2020

