

2021 Cabernet Franc Mizunara

Wine Details

Producer

Kobayashi

Place of Origin

United States

Washington State

Color

Red

Grape/Blend

Cabernet Franc

 Print Wines

Make Shelftalkers

Reviews & Tasting Notes

97+

Drinking

Window

2028 -

2038

From: Washington State 2021 and 2020: From the Frying Pan to the Fire (Jan 2024)

Tasting the Kobayashi 2021 Cabernet Franc Mizunara from bottle confirms all of the excitement I had over this wine last year. Winemaker Travis Allen sources these rare and unique Mizunara barrels from Japan, and they impart an exoticism that needs to be experienced to be believed. The bouquet alone is like something out of a shop of fine treasures, blending incense with foreign spices, herbal tea leaves, dried roses, blood orange and pepper-tinged wild berry fruits. It's deeply textural, velvety-smooth and dense upon entry, yet quickly firms up, as depths of black raspberry meld with a tinge of orange zest and tannins that add a crystalline feel. The 2021 finishes dramatically long and potent, with a residual bump of zesty acidity to balance. An array of inner florals fade over a lingering hint of boysenberry. While I have no experience with these barrels, I estimate five years before these tannins begin to soften, at which point I expect the Mizunara to drink beautifully over another decade or more. Stunning juice.

- By Eric Guido on October 2023