



2017 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

9-3-5

<i>Release Date</i>	September 3 rd , 2020
<i>Production</i>	9 Barrels
<i>Appellation</i>	Cabernet Sauvignon: St. Helena AVA – Wayside Rutherford AVA – Brinkman Block & Haworth
<i>Varietal Composition</i>	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
<i>Winemaking Team</i>	Seana and Justin Hunnicutt Stephens, Proprietors Kirk P. Venge, Winemaker
<i>Cooperage</i>	Aged for 28 months in 100% new French oak
<i>Tasting Notes</i>	<p>9-3-5 began with our wedding day. We were married on September 3rd of 2005 and as you would expect, harvest was hot on our heels. Once harvest ended and we tasted through our 3 Cabernet lots in barrel, it was clear we had the potential for something special. About a year and several blending trials later, we settled on a small 4-barrel blend that became our first ever reserve wine the 2005 9-3-5. With that as our benchmark, we have committed to only releasing our 9-3-5 in vintages that we feel are of undeniable quality and will produce a memorable and stirring wine.</p> <p>2017 will always be defined by the fires that began in Napa on October 8th. Thankfully the winery and our team were spared from any direct damage to property and home and while some vineyards were affected, the lots destined to become part of this year's 9-3-5 were all tucked safely away in the cave. Even without the fires, 2017 was one of the most exciting and dynamic vintages of the 2010's. From a marked increase in rainfall in the winter to dramatic heat spikes throughout the summer and early fall, the weather brought challenges which required a steady hand in the vineyard to anticipate and manage. Therefore, the quality of our 2017 9-3-5 is more than anything a testament to our growers and the importance of the long-term relationships we have built.</p> <p>This wine greets with abundant notes of blackberry, boysenberry compote and ripe plum with subtle Asian spice, candle wax and vanillin providing complexity and intrigue. On the palate the blue and black fruit shows wonderful purity and intensity providing a vibrant core that builds in depth when joined by subtle French oak driven hints of cocoa dust and clove. The finish is endless and gives a hint at the longevity possible for this wine, which while showing wonderfully in its youth, has the potential for 10-15 years of additional development.</p>
