



2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

BRINKMAN BLOCK

RUTHERFORD AVA

- Release Date:** April, 2021
- Production:** 13 Barrels
- Varietal:** 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
- Vineyards:** Beckstoffer Georges III Vineyard,
Rutherford AVA, Napa Valley
- Winemaking:** Justin and Seana Stephens, Proprietors
Kirk Venge, Winemaker
- Cooperage:** Aged for 28 months in 100% French oak, 80% new.
- Vintage Notes:** As vintages go, 2018 was joyously tranquil. From the start in early February and through the mild weather of the Spring flowering season, nature cooperated in exactly the ways desired for an ideal grape set. As summer progressed, we saw relatively few heat spikes and slow, but steady progress in the vineyards which lead to extended hang times. While calm, 2018 was a marathon for winemaking as it required extended focus on the needs of each individual vineyard site well beyond the average year. Happily, this attention was rewarded with beautiful wines across our portfolio.
- Vineyard Notes:** This site was part of the original Rancho Caymus land grant and was gifted from founder George Yount to his granddaughter Elizabeth when she married Thomas Rutherford in 1864. It remained a highly successful vineyard site until Prohibition, when the land was then purchased by Georges de Latour in 1928 and became BV Ranch #3. There under the care of Andre Tchelistcheff it became one of the most celebrated vineyards in Napa Valley. This naturally drew quite a bit of attention to the site and in 1988 it was purchased by Andy Beckstoffer and dubbed Beckstoffer Georges III.
- We began working with this vineyard in 2005 and it has remained one of our most prized sources. Our block that we have dubbed Brinkman in honor of Justin's mother Christina Brinkman Stephens, lies on a small knoll to the west of Silverado Trail, which provides excellent drainage and ample western exposure. This allows for long, even ripening days which result in bold, balanced and amazingly consistent wines.
- Tasting Notes:** The nose is an enticing mix of red and black fruit notes framed by hints of clove, cocoa nib, violets and cassis. On tasting, black cherry cordial, ripe blackberry and cassis envelops and extends through the mid-palate to a long finish with supple fine-grain tannins and light touches of clove, olive and dark chocolate.
- Aging Advice:** 2018 will be a superb vintage to lay down for at least 7-10 years with definite potential to go well beyond that. While young, enjoy with a long decant or over two to three days.