



2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

NAPA VALLEY

- Release Date:** September, 2020
- Production:** 40 Barrels
- Varietal:** 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot
- Vineyards:** Oakville 88-Oakville, Beckstoffer Georges III-Rutherford, Walther River Block-Rutherford, Calla Lily-Pope Valley & Farella-Coombsville
- Winemaking:** Justin and Seana Stephens, Proprietors
Kirk Venge, Winemaker
- Cooperage:** Aged for 22 months in 100% French oak, 50% 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.
- Wine Notes:** What distinguishes Cabernet Sauvignon as the dominant varietal in Napa is its ability to take on distinct and diverse characteristics based on subtle variations in soil, temperature, light, and moisture. This is especially apparent to us as we sit around the blending table, tasting the individual lots that will be combined to become this flagship blend. Some of the vineyards that we work with are a stone's throw away from one another, however each site presents a unique personality, and each vintage is a new satisfying puzzle to decipher.
- This wine represents our beginnings, with the first vintage produced in 2002 and has been the foundation of our winery ever since. Above all, it is a pure expression of our combined palates and how our winemaking philosophy intersects with the climate, soil and topography that makes up the terroir of Napa Valley.
- Tasting Notes:** Lovely aromas of dark cherry, plum, wild blackberry and dried vanilla rise from the glass and compliment the abundant red and black fruit notes which develop immediately on the palate. The fruit lingers well beyond the mid-palate to the finish where it is met by fine grain tannins and notes of Christmas baking spice.
- Aging Advice:** The 2018 vintage is showing huge promise, so while this wine can be enjoyed freely over the next 3-5 years with a long decant or thoughtful pairing it will continue to develop to a vintage peak within 10-12 years.