



## 2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

# 9-3-5

- Release Date:** September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021
- Production:** 9 Barrels
- Varietal:** 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Malbec and 2% Merlot
- Vineyards:**
- | <b>Cabernet Sauvignon:</b>          | <b>Malbec:</b>           | <b>Merlot:</b>       |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| St. Helena – Wayside                | Pope Valley – Calla Lily | Rutherford - Haworth |
| Rutherford – Brinkman Block & FS 81 |                          |                      |
- 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 the winemaking team 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:** 9-3-5 began with our wedding day. We were married on September 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2005 and as you would expect, harvest was hot on our heels. Once harvest ended and we tasted through our three 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 four barrel blend that became our first ever reserve wine, the 2005 9-3-5.
- With that as our benchmark, each year our process for crafting 9-3-5 starts by identifying the individual barrels that speak to us and show compelling vintage and vineyard typicity. From there, we craft a blend from amongst those best of best barrels in a series of trials during the second year of the aging process. Above all, we have committed to only producing our 9-3-5 in years that we feel are of undeniable quality, to ensure that whenever produced, it is a memorable and stirring wine.
- Tasting Notes:** The aromatics are dense and lively, with notes of fresh black cherry, plum and blackberry crumble paired with delicate bay leaf, thyme and lightly toasted cocoa nib. Round and welcomingly dense black fruit notes envelop the palate and extend far into the finish, joined by hits of mocha, licorice and cedar alongside lovely integrated fine-grained tannins.
- Aging Advice:** The long growing season promoted a depth of fruit and sense of completeness to this wine which does allow for enjoyment in its relative youth. That said, this will be a superb vintage to lay down for 10 years with definite potential to go well beyond that. We expect very exciting things from the 2018 vintage for years to come.