



2018 CUVÉE ÉQUITÉ

NAPA VALLEY

- Release Date:** January, 2022
- Production:** 8 Barrels
- Varietal:** 76% Merlot, 19% Malbec & 5% Cabernet Sauvignon
- Vineyards:** Merlot: Coombsville AVA – Farella
Malbec: Pope Valley – Calla Lily
Cabernet Sauvignon: Rutherford AVA – Beckstoffer Georges III
- 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:** In Bordeaux, the river Gironde divides the wine growing region into two parts, the Left and Right Bank. The Left Bank focuses on Cabernet driven complexity and structure, while the Right Bank is built upon Merlot and produces rich, balanced and inviting wines. What does all of this have to do with winemaking in Napa? Well, nothing really as the forces that shape our valley are quite different, but the long tradition of Merlot focused wines along the Right Bank of Bordeaux did provide the inspiration for our Cuvée Équité.
- This wine is a thank you to our investors who believed in this project before the winery existed and were an integral part of its creation. It is now and forever dedicated to all those who hold equity in our dream and help to make this pursuit of ours possible.
- Tasting Notes:** Lush cherry, huckleberry, and plum notes rise from the glass while more subtle hints of clove and hazelnut develop underneath the fruit. The palate is rich and inviting, developing plentiful red and black fruit notes well into the mid-palate where they are joined by hints of flint, baking spice and fine dusty tannins.
- 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.