



2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

FS 81

RUTHERFORD AVA

- Release Date:*** September, 2022
- Production:*** 8 Barrels
- Varietal:*** 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
- Vineyards:*** Star 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 a perfect grape set. As summer progressed, we saw relatively few heat spikes and slow, ideal progress in the vineyards which lead to extended hang times. While calm, due to the long ripening, 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:*** Situated in the heart of the Rutherford bench, about a quarter mile east of the Rutherford Grill, lies the Star Vineyard. This 55-acre site was originally a prune orchard, but a small vineyard was planted there in 1974 to Chardonnay and that original block still thrives to this day. Reg Oliver, who was a close friend of our family, purchased the land in 1984 and began planting Cabernet Sauvignon in the surrounding blocks. Reg sadly passed in 2005, however his son Jack quickly stepped in to farm the vineyard and has expertly managed it ever since. Jack and Justin have been friends since 1981.
- Our block on Star Vineyard was planted in 2007 in the alluvial soils which give Rutherford its dusty reputation and it is a near 50/50 split of Martha's Clone and Clone 7 fruit. We ferment these clones separately and only combine after roughly a year of barrel aging once blending trials have been held.
- Tasting Notes:*** A classic Rutherford nose of rich black cherry and red currant is paired with subtle hints of allspice, cocoa, eucalyptus, and black olive. On the palate, the refined cherry and deeper hints of blueberry compote are balanced elegantly with the structure of the wine leading to a finish mingled with cinnamon, cocoa dust, and fine graphite.
- Aging Advice:*** 2018 is a superb vintage to lay down across the board and this wine is no exception. Its multi-layered nature promises great things and we'd recommend 7+ years of age for full expression. For those who prefer wines in their youth, the beautiful freshness of fruit and finely integrated tannins make this wine easy to enjoy now as well.