



2019 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

NAPA VALLEY

Release Date: September, 2022

Production: 60 Barrels

Varietal: 97% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Merlot

Vineyards: Lewelling, St. Helena, Beckstoffer Georges III-Rutherford, Star – Rutherford, Walther River Block-Rutherford & Calla Lily-Pope Valley

Winemaking: Justin and Seana Stephens, Proprietors
Kirk Venge, Winemaker

Cooperage: Aged for 22 months in 100% French oak, 50% new.

Vintage Notes: 2019 as a vintage was full of unique and unexpected character. A cool spring and late rains well into May had us on edge as we nervously kept vigil against frost and shatter in the vineyards, fearing a repeat of the unseasonably cool 2011 vintage. Thankfully, summer arrived with its desired warmth, but with the harshest heat held at bay, allowing for a long, warm, and even ripening season. This was especially appreciated along the eastern side of the valley where the late afternoon sun lingers longest, and heat spikes are most perilous.

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: The aromatics are led by vibrant cherry and black plum alongside hints of cassis and refined oak derived notes of nutmeg, vanillin, and fine cinnamon. The palate starts as a medley of cherry, blackberry and huckleberry and is joined by supple tannins at the mid-palate. The result is a lovely, balanced expression of fruit alongside hints of clove and graham cracker crust all leading to a long, luxurious finish.

Aging Advice: With the purity of fruit on display in youth, it is certainly tempting to dive right in, and we do expect to enjoy this wine early and often. That said, there is strong aging potential for this and in fact all of our 2019 vintage wines, as the ample fruit and balanced structural cues will allow for steady evolution over the next 7-10 years.