



# 2019 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

## *BRINKMAN BLOCK*

### *RUTHERFORD AVA*

- Release Date:*** April, 2023
- Production:*** 14 Barrels
- Varietal:*** 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
- Vineyards:*** Beckstoffer Georges III 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:*** 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. With the weather as calm as it was, the harvest was as long or as short as the grapes demanded, allowing for optimum ripeness and steady, even fermentation. No drama equaled superb wines.
- Vineyard Notes:*** This site was part of the original Rancho Caymus land grant and was gifted from founder George Yount to his granddaughter Elizabeth when she married Thomas Rutherford in 1864. It remained a highly successful vineyard site until Prohibition, when the land was then purchased by Georges de Latour in 1928 and became BV Ranch #3. There under the care of Andre Tchelistcheff it became one of the most celebrated vineyards in Napa Valley. This naturally drew quite a bit of attention to the site and in 1988 it was purchased by Andy Beckstoffer and dubbed Beckstoffer Georges III.
- We began working with this vineyard in 2005 and it has remained one of our most prized sources. Our block that we have dubbed Brinkman in honor of Justin's mother Christina Brinkman Stephens, lies on a small knoll to the west of Silverado Trail, which provides excellent drainage and ample western exposure. This allows for long, even ripening days which result in bold, balanced and amazingly consistent wines.
- Tasting Notes:*** The nose is instantly inviting with hints of sour cherry, blackberry compote, clove, cocoa nibs and fine cedar. The palate is rich with fresh cherry and cassis, mingling with baking spices, bright acidity and supple fine grain, dusty tannins that carry the fruit to a long evolving 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.