



2019 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

WAYSIDE

ST. HELENA AVA

- Release Date:** February, 2023
- Production:** 6 Barrels
- Varietal:** 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
- Vineyards:** Lewelling Vineyard,
St. Helena 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, harvest was as long or as short as the grapes demanded, allowing for optimum ripeness and steady, even fermentations. No drama equaled superb wines.
- Vineyard Notes:** The Lewelling vineyard is one of the oldest continuously owned family vineyards in the Napa Valley, first planted by John Lewelling in 1864 and farmed by his great-great-grandson Doug Wight today. The 28-acre vineyard is located at the base of the Mayacamas range in St. Helena on an alluvial fan built by millennia of deposits which flowed down from the foothills above. The fruit that develops from these vines benefits greatly from this diverse soil as well as the even afternoon temperatures on this west side vineyard, allowing us to produce wines of great depth and elegance.
- It is also coincidentally right across the road from where Justin lived when he first moved back to the valley shortly before starting HUNNICUTT. Thus, we have dubbed this site Wayside.
- Tasting Notes:** The 2019 Wayside is very true to form, with crème de cassis and blackberry as hallmarks, alongside chocolate covered cherries and whispers of cedar tobacco box, sage, and sandalwood. On the palate, this wine shows no sharp edges with rich oak laden plum and blackberry notes extending to a finish abundant with fruit, fine tannins, and delicate caramel and baking spice notes.
- 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.