



## 2021 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

*Napa Valley*

- Release Date:** September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Production:** 15 Barrels
- Varietal:** 89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot, 2% Malbec
- Vineyards:** Rutherford – FS 81 and Brinkman Block, St. Helena – Wayside, Calistoga – Kenefick Ranch, Pope Valley – Calla Lily
- Winemaking:** Justin and Seana Stephens, Proprietors  
Kirk Venge, Winemaker  
Andrew Bohi, Director of Operations  
John DeGregory, Director of Hospitality
- Cooperage:** Aged for 22 months in 100% French oak, 50% new.
- Vintage Notes:** The 2021 vintage will be remembered as a drought year for the valley, with a resulting drop in yields. However, the overall quality of the vintage is superb thanks to those smaller berries bringing an increased concentration of both fruit and structure. Early spring saw periods of unseasonable warmth alongside the occasional cool night which did create some frost concerns, but thankfully a little vigilance in the vineyards kept any damage at bay. Summer and early fall provided heat that cycled predictably between warm days and cool nights which allowed for a very smooth and orderly harvest about 1-2 weeks earlier than average.
- 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 mainstay blend. Some of the vineyards with which we work 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:** Red plums, crème de cassis and black cherries co-mingle with engaging aromas of brown sugar, baking spices and graham cracker. The palate is inviting and rich yet fresh and focused finishing long and complex with ripe and integrated tannins.
- Aging Advice:** The 2021 vintage reminds us quite a bit of 2015, drought conditions and small berries were the name of the game in both years. With that in mind, at 8 years in bottle the 2015 vintage wines are drinking beautifully and still heading towards their peak, so we feel confident that the 2021 vintage is likewise set to yield 10+ years of cellaring.