



## 2019 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

### 9-3-5

- Release Date:** September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023
- Production:** 10 Barrels
- Varietal:** 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Malbec and 2% Merlot
- Vineyards:** Rutherford – FS 81, Brinkman Block & Haworth, St. Helena – Wayside, 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 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.
- Wine Notes:** 9-3-5 began with our wedding day. We were married September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005 and as you would expect, harvest was hot on our heels. Once harvest ended and we tasted through our three Cabernet lots in barrel, it was clear we had the potential for something special. About a year and several blending trials later, we settled on a small four barrel blend that became our first ever “reserve” wine, the 2005 9-3-5.
- With that as our benchmark, each year our process for crafting 9-3-5 starts by identifying the individual barrels that speak to us and show compelling vintage and vineyard typicity. From there, we craft a blend from amongst those best of best barrels in a series of trials during the second year of the aging process. Above all, we have committed to only producing our 9-3-5 in years that we feel are of undeniable quality, to ensure that whenever produced, it is a memorable and stirring wine.
- Tasting Notes:** Evocative waves of blackberries, black currants and loganberries cascade from the glass interlaced with scented notes of violets, nutmeg, hazelnut and vanilla bean. The palate is plush and full-bodied, yet remains fresh and precise through the long and luxurious finish echoing the rich and dark fruit tapestry revealed in the aromatics.
- Aging Advice:** With the purity of fruit on display in youth, it is certainly tempting to dive right in. 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 10-12 years.