



2021 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

9-3-5

- Release Date:** September 3rd, 2024
- Production:** 10 Barrels
- Varietal:** 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
- Vineyards:** Rutherford – FS 81, Brinkman Block, St. Helena – Wayside
- Winemaking:** Justin and Seana Stephens, Proprietors
Kirk Venge, Winemaker
Andrew Bohi, Director of Operations
David Robbins, Director of Sales
John DeGregory, Director of Hospitality
- Cooperage:** Aged for 28 months in 100% French oak, 80% new.
- Vintage Notes:** The 2021 vintage will be remembered as a dry year for the valley, with a resulting drop in yields. However, the overall quality of the vintage is superb thanks to smaller berries bringing an increased concentration of both fruit and structure.
- Wine Notes:** 9-3-5 began with our wedding day. We were married September 3rd, 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:** A symphony of bold flavors and aromas emerge, captivating the senses from the first pour. An intricate fruit tapestry of dark berries, black currants and ripe plums, is layered with an array of graham cracker, brown sugar, anise flower and tilled soil. This wine not only showcases the elegance and power of the vintage but also leaves a lasting impression of its depth and sophistication.
- Aging Advice:** The 2021 vintage reminds us quite a bit of 2016, dry, but not drought conditions, was the name of the game in both years. With that in mind, at 8 years in bottle the 2016 vintage wines are now 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.