



2021 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

BRINKMAN BLOCK

RUTHERFORD AVA

- Release Date:** April, 2024
- 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:** The 2021 vintage will be remembered as a dry year for the valley, resulting drop in below average yields. However, the overall quality of the vintage is superb thanks to those smaller berries bringing an increased concentration of both fruit and structure. 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.
- 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 2021 vintage is effusive in the glass with inviting scents of red licorice, raspberry compote, marzipan and fine cedar. The palate is rich yet fresh, displaying red currant, baking spices, root beer, spearmint and ground coffee. Refreshing acidity and supple fine grain, dusty tannins carry the fruit to a long evolving finish.
- 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.