



HUNNICUTT

## 2021 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

### FS 81

*Rutherford AVA*

- Release Date:** January, 2025
- Production:** 10 Barrels
- Varietal:** 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
- Vineyards:** Star Vineyard, Rutherford AVA, Napa Valley
- Team:** Justin and Seana Stephens, Proprietors  
Kirk Venge, Winemaker  
Andrew Bohi, Director of Operations
- Cooperage:** Aged for 28 months in French oak, 80% new.
- Vintage Notes:** The 2021 vintage will be remembered as a drought year for the valley, with the 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 warming days and cooling nights which allowed for a very smooth and orderly harvest season about 1-2 weeks earlier than average.
- Vineyard Notes:** Situated in the heart of the Rutherford Bench, about a quarter mile east of the Rutherford Grill, lies our portion of Star Vineyard. The entire 55-acre vineyard was originally a prune orchard, but a small vineyard was planted there in 1974 to Chardonnay and that original block still thrives to this day. Reg Oliver, who was a close friend of Justin's dad, purchased the land in 1984 and began converting the vineyard to Cabernet Sauvignon. Reg sadly passed in 2005, however his son Jack stepped in and has expertly managed the vineyard under the guidance of Pina Vineyard Management ever since. Jack and Justin have been friends since 1981, hence the name, FS 81 (friends since '81).
- Our block on Star Vineyard was planted in 2007 in the alluvial soils which give Rutherford its dusty reputation and is a 50/50 split of Martha's Clone and Clone 7.
- Tasting Notes:** The nose immediately portends great density and captivates with vivid fruit aromas of blueberry, black cherry and cassis while notes of crushed rock, sage, spearmint and violets emerge enticingly from the glass. The plush and sexy palate does not belie the nose as the rich fruit layers play with the rich mocha scented oak, all the while maintaining a firm and precise structure through the long and meandering finish.
- Aging Advice:** As with all of our portfolio, we encourage you to enjoy a bottle or two of this wine in its youth to take in the glorious extravagance of flavors and then tuck away a few bottles to enjoy over the next decade, to allow the complexity and detail that only patience can afford.