



## 2023 CUVÉE ÉQUITÉ

### NAPA VALLEY

- Release Date:** January, 2026
- Production:** 8 Barrels
- Varietal:** 93% Merlot and 7% Malbec
- Vineyards:** Merlot: White Satin, Carneros & Star, Rutherford  
Malbec: Star, Rutherford
- Team:** Justin and Seana Stephens, Proprietors  
Kirk Venge, Winemaker  
Andrew Bohi, Director of Operations
- Cooperage:** Aged for 22 months in French oak, 63% new.
- Vintage Notes:** In 2023, Napa Valley experienced one of the longest growing seasons in several decades. A cool, wet spring delayed bud break and while summer temperatures did eventually show up in July, it was a steady mild heat that caused the vines to progress gradually. As a result, the valley began the harvest season approximately 3-4 weeks behind what would be considered a normal schedule. Thankfully, the weather was beautifully consistent throughout the fall, allowing for extended hang times to achieve perfect ripeness and flavor development. This was the proverbial goldilocks vintage, allowing us to choose our moment with each site, resulting in stirring and memorable wines across our portfolio.
- Wine Notes:** In Bordeaux, the river Gironde divides the region into two parts, Left and Right Bank. The Left Bank focuses on Cabernet driven wines promoting structure, while the Right Bank is built upon Merlot and produces rich, balanced and inviting wines. What does all of this have to do with winemaking in Napa? Well, nothing really as the forces that shape our valley are quite different, but the long tradition of Merlot-focused wines along the Right Bank of Bordeaux did provide the inspiration for our Cuvée Équité.
- This wine is an homage to our investors who believed in this project before the winery existed and were an integral part of its creation. It is now and forever dedicated to all those who held equity in our dream and helped to make this pursuit of ours possible.
- Tasting Notes:** The nose is complex and lovely, showing off remarkable notes of plum, fresh baked cherry compote, blackberry briar patch, violets, cocoa and a spice box of nutmeg, clove and allspice. Similarly, the palate is a medley of blue and black fruit, along with fine white pepper, tarragon and chocolate shavings. Tannins are harmoniously balanced with the ample fruit, promising a long life and increasing intricacy with age.
- Aging Advice:** The 2023 vintage is showing huge promise, so while this wine can be enjoyed freely over the next 3-5 years with a long decant or thoughtful pairing, it will continue to develop to a vintage peak within 10-12 years and will certainly reward that patience.