

## 2020 NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

This Cabernet Sauvignon opens with dark blue and black fruit on the nose with aromas of blackberry cobbler, plum, and black currants, followed by warm aromatics of fresh tobacco, tamarind, hints of vanilla, and caramelized black fruit. On the palate, this Cabernet is silky and lively, with medium-to-full bodied texture and weight, and flavors of raspberry, black cherry, black plum, and soft red and black stone fruit. Rich tannin, texture, and weight lead to an inviting mouthfeel. The finish is mouthwatering and lengthy with cherry and hints of dark, powdery cocoa, which is classic with Rutherford-based wines.

## HARVEST & WINEMAKING

The 2020 vintage began with moderate winter rainfall and a warm and dry spring. Bud break began in late March, leading to a Spring that had few showers. Summer was temperate and steady, with heat spikes that pushed the vintage and set the stage for an excellent season consisting of small berries and great concentration. Once headed into early Fall, harvest was upon us rapidly. We moved swiftly to bring in only the premium quality of grapes to process, and we finished the season quickly.

The greatest wines begin in the vineyard. We know our estate fruit intimately and work closely with our growers. Our goal is individual vine balance for perfect ripening of each cluster. At harvest time, any compromised clusters were left on the vine. The fruit was hand-picked and berries were hand-sorted before and after the destemmer. The juice went through a 1-3-day cold-soak to settle the solids before inoculation with a unique French yeast strain. Pump-overs were executed daily to fine-tune and extract the rich color and tannins from the skins. After fermentation, the wine was moved to barrel to initiate malolactic fermentation in French oak and was racked 2-3 times before bottling and extended aging.

## **GRAPES**

The 2020 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon consists of more than 65% Rutherford-grown fruit including the Sequoia Grove Estate, the Tonella Estate Vineyard, and Morisoli Vineyard. Tonella sits on the eastern side of the valley bench lands, which are heavily influenced by its volcanic soils. The Tonella Cabernet Franc in this wine is clones 214, 1, and 4 which sit on a rockier section of the vineyard that is heavily influenced by the Vaca Mountain Range. The remainder comes from Lamoreaux Vineyard on the eastern bench of Napa Valley in the Oak Knoll District. Lamoreaux's cool nights contribute lush qualities to the blend with Cabernet clones 169 and 34.

## WINE STATS

Cases produced: 4,010
Alcohol: 14.9%
TA: 5.8 g/L
pH: 3.76

Blend: 89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc, 3% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot

Appellation: Napa Valley AVA with 65% Rutherford and 35% Oak Knoll District

Oak: Aged 20 months in French Oak, 65% new

Bottled: June 2022