



## 2015 29 ESTATE CABERNET FRANC



**Composition:** 92% Cabernet Franc, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon

**Harvest Date:** September 16, 2015

**Barrel Age:** 19 months, 85% new, 100% French oak

**Cooperage:** St. Martin, Taransaud, Artisan, Ermitage

**Bottling Date:** June 7, 2017

**Alcohol:** 14.8%

**pH/TA:** 3.75 / 0.54

**Release Date:** Fall 2018

**Cases Produced:** 285

**THE VINEYARD** The 29 Estate Vineyard sits on a hillside just at the “pinch” of Napa Valley’s hourglass shape. Planted in 2000, our small cabernet franc block lies on a northwest-facing slope at the southern edge of the 29 Estate—providing the gorgeous vineyard view from the winery’s terrace. A tree line provides afternoon shade in this stressed, rocky block that has incredible drainage, producing deeply concentrated fruit at harvest time.

**THE VINTAGE** While the drought continued into 2015, temperatures were mild and even throughout the summer, resulting in our lowest-yielding crop in a decade. In 2015, the 29 Estate Cabernet Franc vines yielded less fruit than average, but the intensity of that fruit resulted in an exceptional wine with phenomenal acidity, structure and complexity. We included 8% Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend, adding a dark fruit component and mouth coating texture to the finished wine.

**THE WINE** The 2015 vintage of 29 Estate Cabernet Franc is a stunner, the expressive nose filled with dried lavender, brambly blackberry and dried fruits, with hints of pencil shaving. The nicely weighted palate echoes the nose, and the bright acidity and chewy tannins carry through to a long, perfumed finish. Decant this wine for an hour or so to allow the generous fruit character to emerge.

WINE ADVOCATE

97PTS

“Very deep purple-black colored, the 2015 Cabernet Franc 29 Estate gives up expressive red and black currant preserves with hints of pencil shavings, crushed stones, chargrill and bay leaves plus a waft of roses. Medium to full-bodied, it has gorgeous freshness in the mouth with a chewy frame of tannins and plenty of expressive black and red fruit flavors, finishing long and perfumed.”

—Lisa Perrotti-Brown, December 29, 2017