



2017 29 ESTATE CABERNET FRANC



Composition: 95% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon

Harvest Date: October 3, 2017

Barrel Age: 20 months, 70% new, 100% French Oak

Cooperage: St. Martin, Taransaud, Artisan, Ermitage

Bottling Date: June 3, 2019

Alcohol: 14.8%

pH/TA: 3.78 / 0.55

Release Date: Fall 2020

Cases Produced: 239

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 The winter of 2016 / 2017 was the wettest in many years, causing the Napa River to reach flood levels and some vineyards to become temporary lakes. By the time of bud break in the early Spring, some parts of Napa Valley had reached over 50” of rain. The Spring of 2017 was beautiful and moderate followed by a freak hail storm in mid-June which caused some damage to mostly mountain vineyards. Veraison was about a week late, but an exceptionally hot August quickened the ripening curve. During the last week of August some areas reached as high as 115F. Another heat spike came during the first week of September, which kicked the Cabernet harvest into gear for most of the early ripening sites. The evening of October 8th was one of the windiest, driest on record resulting in unprecedented wildfires that raged in the hills and into the fringes of the valley floor. Thankfully, all of Vineyard 29’s estate blocks had been harvested already.

THE WINE Gorgeous combination of fresh tobacco leaf, cedar and potpourri along with baked cherries, savory spices and mocha. The 2017 Estate Franc enters lush and rich, with forest floor, cigar box, integrated dried lavender, red and black fruits and continues to build on the palate. The tannins are chewy and delicious, providing excellent structure for this concentrated, balanced expression of Cabernet Franc.