



2020 CRU CABERNET SAUVIGNON



Harvest Dates: September 4–23, 2020

Barrel Age: 18 months in 40% new Oak, 100% French Oak

Cooperage: Taransaud, "O", Demptos, Saury,
Ermitage, Baron, Boutes

Blend: 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Merlot,
1% Petite Verdot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 3% Malbec

Bottling Date: April 19, 2022

Alcohol: 14.6%

pH/TA: 3.78 / 0.58

Release Date: Fall 2022

Cases Produced: 1022

THE VINEYARD Our CRU Cabernet is deeply rooted in the vineyards of St. Helena that surround our estate, with about 60% of the fruit coming from neighboring growers. Each year, we hand-select the balance of the blend from different parts of the valley to layer together a delicious, well-rounded and beautifully balanced wine that expresses the nuance and character of the Napa Valley. Fourteen vineyards play a role in the CRU bottling, including valley floor and mountain Cabernet and Malbec, valley floor Petit Verdot and Merlot, and bench land Cabernet Franc blocks, which all contribute to the juicy approachability and great structure of CRU Cabernet.

THE VINTAGE As a result of the dry and temperate winter, the 2020 bud-break began a few weeks earlier than average. Spring did not bring much relief for growers in terms of water supply and irrigations were started early and continued frequently throughout the growing season. The vintage will forever be remembered by the August 14th extreme heat wave followed by an unprecedented round of over 11,000 lightning strikes across Northern California over a 36 hour period. The rest of the growing season and resulting harvest was more like an action packed movie than grape growing or winemaking. We came together as a team, however, and worked extremely hard, at times in dangerous circumstances, to produce a portfolio of beautiful, well-balanced, meticulously-crafted 2020 Vineyard 29 wines.

THE WINE The 2020 CRU Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is our smallest production since its inception in 2004. The wine itself, however, is one of the biggest, most powerful expressions of Napa Valley Cabernet that we've crafted to date. Darker in profile than most vintages, the 2020 possesses blackberry and boysenberry aromas complimented by hints of pencil shavings and cocoa powder. Youthful and vibrant upon entry with richness throughout, superb concentration, balanced acidity and firm tannins leading to a long, mouth watering finish.