



## 2021 CRU CABERNET SAUVIGNON, ST. HELENA



**Harvest Dates:** September 7 – September 14, 2021

**Barrel Age:** 18 months in 60% new oak, 100% French oak

**Cooperage:** Taransaud, Saury, Baron, Ermitage

**Blend:** 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc,  
1% Malbec, 2% Merlot, 1% Petite Verdot

**Bottling Date:** May 16, 2023

**Alcohol:** 14.7%

**pH/TA:** 3.71 / 0.58

**Release Date:** October 1, 2023

**Cases Produced:** 445

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**THE VINEYARD** Our CRU Cabernet Sauvignon, St. Helena is primarily sourced from our Railroad Estate Vineyard in St. Helena along with blending components from other St. Helena vineyards as well as a small amount of Malbec from Mt. Veeder, which we layer together for a delicious, well-rounded and beautifully balanced wine that expresses the nuance and character of their respective sites. All the vineyards play a role in this uniquely focused CRU bottling, contributing to the juicy approachability and great structure that our CRU Cabernet Sauvignons are known for.

**THE VINTAGE** The 2021 growing season began a week or two later than the 2020 season due to a colder than average February and March. A few spring showers helped the vines but the overall dry winter led to slow shoot growth and smaller than average shoots in most cases around the valley. Thankfully, those who started their irrigation program early, April in the case of Vineyard 29 and Aida Estate, were able to convince the shoots to grow to adequate length so that each shoot could ripen its clusters evenly and optimally. Early season frosts were common in the coldest parts of the valley, thus decreasing overall yields come harvest time. The summer growing season was exceptionally good. The consistent weather, beautiful skies and ideal ripening conditions aided in a slow and steady sugar accumulation period alongside excellent tannin development. Harvest was smooth and steady and while yields were lower than average, the grapes were concentrated and flavorful and the resulting wines are stunning. A truly exceptional vintage.

**THE WINE** Rich and massive upon entry, the 2021 Cru, St. Helena is black fruit driven throughout. These dark notes intermingle with secondary flavors of toasted brioche, juicy plums and fresh pencil shavings. Full bodied and powerful this wine is structured by firm, grippy tannins and a tight acid structure. This wine rivals other Cabernets at three times its price point in terms of concentration, weight and richness. Powerful and intense in its youth, this gem will continue to develop for decades to come.