



2021 CRU CABERNET SAUVIGNON



Harvest Dates: September 5 – October 6, 2020

Barrel Age: 18 months in 50% new oak, 100% French oak

Cooperage: Taransaud, Quintessence, Demptos, Saury,
Ermitage, Baron, Boutes, Cadu

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

Bottling Date: May 22, 2023

Alcohol: 14.6%

pH/TA: 3.72 / 0.59

Release Date: October 1, 2023

Cases Produced: 4,596

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 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 Enticing aromas of Bing cherry, dried lavender and roasted coffee beans awake the senses and set the stage for a full-throated palate of ripe blackberry and both red and black cherries. An undercurrent of seamlessly integrated oak shows itself with notes of cedar, all spice and sandalwood and adds to the fresh, lifted flavor profile that carries all the way through the lengthy finish. Amazing energy and verve, this wine is structured to age for decades but also quite drinkable upon release. CRU is always crafted with meticulous attention to detail in Vineyard 29's gravity flow facility, which assures that each vintage is showing beautifully right out of the gates.