



2021 29 ESTATE CABERNET FRANC



Composition: 93% Cabernet Franc, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon

Harvest Date: September 21, 2021

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

Cooperage: Artisan, Taransaud, Ermitage, Orion

Bottling Date: June 6, 2023

Alcohol: 14.8%

pH/TA: 3.66 / 0.55

Release Date: October 1, 2024

Cases Produced: 207

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 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 Layered and complex, the 2021 Estate Cabernet Franc opens with a brooding perfume of fresh tobacco leaf and forest floor, notes that are quickly complemented by crushed pebbles, and dried floral notes of potpourri and lavender. On the palate, the beautiful integrity of the fruit is expressed though notes of tart Bing cherry, blackberries and rope black plums. Textually, slightly dusty, silty tannins provide a tactile sensation reminiscent of fine grains of cocoa powder and balance the mid-palate with a slight creamy texture. Rich and full bodied, this wine is structured with power and a distinct personality true to the steep, rugged, rocky hillside that these vines are rooted.