



2023 CRU CABERNET SAUVIGNON, ST. HELENA



Harvest Date: September 29, 2023

Barrel Age: 18 months

Cooperage: Taransaud, Saury, Baron, Ermitage

Blend: 95% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot, 2% Malbec

Bottling Date: April 25, 2025

Release Date: October 1, 2025

Cases Produced: 246

THE VINEYARD Our CRU St. Helena Cabernet Sauvignon is sourced primarily from block 2 at our Aida Estate Vineyard in northern St. Helena. We also use blending components from two other vineyards just to the south, as well as a small amount of Petit Verdot from Rutherford. The resulting blend showcases the powerful, structured black fruit profile that the St. Helena appellation is known for. Each vineyard plays 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 Napa Valley saw approximately 40” of rainfall over the winter of 2022/2023. The 2023 grape growing season began two weeks later than the five year average as a result of the cooler and wetter than average winter and early spring. The vines had an ample amount of water without being oversaturated, shoot growth was steady, flowering and fruit set were also two weeks later than usual, and veraison did not take place in most vineyards until mid-August. Growers and winemakers, at that time, knew that they were in for a long, late harvest. Patience was the name of the game for the 2023 vintage. Early ripening varieties such as Sauvignon Blanc were mostly picked in early to mid-September (as opposed to late August) and the Cabernet harvest lasted until November 10th, a record for Vineyard 29! Mother Nature was extremely generous in 2023 as the weather stayed moderate and the sun kept shining, thus allowing the vines to slowly ripen their clusters. The yields were bountiful and the wines are extremely dark in color (reds), full of aromatics, opulent, rich and juicy. There is amazing acid structure and fully developed tannins across the board for the red varieties. The whites are fresh and delicious as well. The 2023 vintage will go down as one of the greatest, most unique vintages in quite some time.

THE WINE This powerful wine displays expressive aromas of ripe black cherry, blackberry, and cassis, layered with violet, baking spice, and a hint of cedar. The palate is plush and generous, reflecting St. Helena’s warm, alluvial soils with a core of dark plum, blackberry, and mocha. Firm tannins provide structure, while notes of licorice, graphite, and sweet tobacco add depth. The mid-palate is broad and concentrated, carrying through to a long, lingering finish accented by dark chocolate, espresso, and subtle earthiness. Of the CRU AVA series Cabernets, CRU Saint Helena is the big boy.