

MERRYVALE

VINEYARDS

2011 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley



Winemaking

Our Napa Cabernet receives choice lots from our Estate Vineyard located in the hills high above the town of St. Helena, as well as fruit from other top Napa vineyards, including Stagecoach and Salvador. The fruit was hand-picked and triple sorted before undergoing extended maceration and a long, cool fermentation for increased flavor, color and aroma. The wine was aged for 19 months in 50% new French oak barrels. Our Napa Cabernet bottling is always blended with other Bordeaux varietals for their added aromatic and balanced tannin contributions.

Vintage

The 2011 Harvest was one of the most challenging in the history of the Napa Valley, unlike anything even many of the old-timers had experienced. Weather was generally uncooperative all the way through the growing season, except for the fact that moderate temperatures eliminated the normally ubiquitous problem of dehydration and raisining. Rain in the late spring and early fall resulted in poor fruit set, and created the need for intensive vineyard management. Crop thinning, canopy management, and rigorous fruit selection ensured high quality, lower alcohol, and more elegant expression of Cabernet Sauvignon than we have seen in a very long time in California, but the trade off was a significantly smaller harvest in terms of yield.

Tasting Notes

Fresh berries are prominent on the nose: cherry, blueberry, raspberry. Vanilla, cinnamon, camphor, and mint add depth and complexity to the captivating aromas. The palate features vibrant acidity and an overall sense of balance that is often lacking in your typical high-octane Napa Cabernet. With proper cellaring, it will evolve for 10 to 15 years.

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| Appellation: | Napa Valley |
| Blend: | 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Malbec, 4% Petit Verdot 3% Cabernet Franc |
| Vineyards: | Schlatter Family Estate Vineyard, Salvador, Rancho Chimiles, Broken Rock, Kenefick, Stagecoach, Stanton |
| Cooperage: | 50% new French oak barrels for 19 months |
| Alc: | 14.1% |
| PH: | 3.66 |
| TA: | 5.74 g/L |

EST. 1983

