



2011 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

MATTHIASSEN

The wine is 80 percent Cabernet sauvignon from three vineyards in the Napa Valley (all vineyards Steve is intimately involved in managing), and 20 percent Merlot from our home vineyard. It is a Napa Cab of the old school, a rustic blended wine from different parts of the valley, age-worthy, complex, and begging for a steak off of the grill.

The fruit was fermented at low temperatures and pumped over twice per day, The intensity of the fruit didn't demand a high rate of extraction, and we wanted to preserve the aromatics. Since the temperatures were cool, the fermentation was long and slow, lasting for three weeks. The wine was pressed at dryness, blended immediately, and aged for 20 months in used barrels.

We find abundant fruit on the nose, sweet fruit, blackberry, cranberry, mulberry, cinnamon spice, violets, and an herbal note of tarragon and sage. On the palate there is cherry, cranberry, blackberry, mulberry, pomegranate, lots of licorice, with vanilla, toffee, mocha, and French roast coffee on the finish. There is a broad but structured palate, with lots of soft tannin cloaking the acidity, and a long intense finish.

Alcohol is 13.7. TA is 6.2 g/l, pH is 3.62. 143 cases were made.

The Vineyards

The Red Hen Vineyard is on rocky alluvium next to Dry Creek, in the Oak Knoll District. Cool breezes and dry rocky soil combine to create structure and ripe fruits.

The Vare Vineyard is also on Dry Creek, in the Oak Knoll District, but on gravelly soils in the mouth of the canyon. The cool air drainage and short fall days as the sun is blocked by the redwoods result in light aromatic wine.

The Dos-a-Dos vineyard in St. Helena is hot and dry, ripening quickly, which preserves the dusty and green Cabernet varietal character.

The Matthiasson Vineyard is on loamy alluvial soil on the west side of the Oak Knoll District, just south of the Red Hen Vineyard. It is the coolest of the vineyards, receiving morning fog and afternoon sea breezes most summer days.