



2013 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

In the tradition of Cabernet sauvignon, ours includes 9 percent Merlot and 6 percent Petit verdot, and is from seven vineyards from throughout the Napa Valley. The three AVAs are Coombsville for structure and black fruit, Rutherford for savory Cabernet characters, and Oak Knoll for bright fruit. It is a Napa Cab of the old school, a blended wine, age-worthy, complex, and begging for a steak off of the grill. The 2013 vintage was warm and dry, which created a very structured and powerful wine —very different than the fruity 2012 vintage, or the savory and edgy 2011 vintage.

The fruit was fermented at low temperatures and pumped over twice per day; the intensity of the fruit doesn't demand a high rate of extraction, and we want to preserve the freshness and high-toned aromatics. Since the fermentation 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 a combination of mostly used and a few new barrels (<20% new French oak).

The nose shows abundant dark fruit, lots of bramble-berries, such as blackberry, cranberry, mulberry, along with dark cherry and Santa Rosa Plum, with hints of mineral/herbal characters such as graphite, cedar, and pencil shavings. The fruit continues on the palate, plus black licorice and mocha. There is a broad and structured palate, with firm tannin and a long intense finish.

Alcohol is 13.4. TA is 6.1 g/l, pH is 3.70. 1080 cases were made.

The Vineyards

The Dead Fred Vineyard in Coombsville sits on rocky volcanic soil. It's south-western exposure causes it to pick up heat during the day, and the proximity to the mouth of the Napa Valley keeps the nights cool. We leased it in 2012.

The York Vineyard is in the heart of Rutherford, on the classic gravelly alluvium known to create the famous "Rutherford Dust" character. We leased it in 2013.

The Helen's Gate Vineyard is the home of Arthur Berliner and Marian Lever. It sits on an east-facing hill along Whitehall Lane in the Rutherford District of Napa Valley. We planted the vines in 2009.

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. We have over-seen the farming of the vineyard since 2002.

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. This is our home vineyard.

