



MATTHIASSEN

2012 Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

The wine is Cabernet sauvignon and some of the traditional blenders from five vineyards in the Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley (all vineyards Steve is intimately involved in managing). 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 2012 vintage was long and mild, and created wines soft wines with abundant fruit—very different than the cooler and edgier 2011 vintage.

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 two 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 blend is approximately 84 % Cabernet sauvignon, 8 % merlot, 6 % Cabernet franc, and 2 % Petit verdot.

The nose shows very concentrated fruit, the typical Oak Knoll red cherry and black tea, along with beautiful bramble berries. The concentrated fruit continues on the palate, with the soft 2012 tannins balanced by firm bright acidity. This Cabernet sauvignon should age for many years.

Alcohol is 13.9. TA is 6.7 g/l, pH is 3.48. 600 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 Massa Vineyard is part of an organic vegetable farm alongside the Napa River.

The Monticello Vineyard is on gravelly soil along Big Ranch Road.

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.