



## **2022 Napa Valley Red Wine**

Since 2003 this wine has always been our attempt at crafting a classic balanced and age-worthy red wine — wines like those produced and collected around the world when people like Thomas Jefferson and Winston Churchill wouldn't have dinner without a bottle of Claret. Old school age-worthy wine with finesse but with guts, and complete with a beginning, middle, and end.

The sale of the Red Hen Vineyard in 2018 resulted in a brief hiatus in our Red Wine production. In Cressida vineyard, we finally found a worthy successor. The 2022 blend is 55% Merlot, 41% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 4% Cabernet Franc. The Merlot from Cressida vineyard provides the supple texture, as well as the bright and red fruit characters that are the hallmarks of our red wine blend. Cabernet Sauvignon provides additional structure and darker fruit notes to complement the elegance and lift from the Merlot. Cabernet Franc adds an herbal accent that provides an additional layer of complexity.

Over 90% of the blend comes from our Cressida Vineyard in Los Carneros. The Cabernet Franc comes from our Phoenix Vineyard, situated in the Oak Knoll District and the home to our winery. The blend was assembled early in 2023 to give the components time to integrate, producing a seamless and balanced blend. Aged for 20 months in 20% new French oak.

As always, the wine is defined by its typical bright red fruits, mineral character, cedar and tobacco aromas, along with more rich black fruits and graphite. And there is the trademark structure for aging. This wine will continue to develop for many years.

The pH is 3.53, TA is 6.2, and alcohol is 13.5%. ABV is 13.5%. 246 cases produced.

### **The Vineyards**

The Cressida Vineyard is planted along the spine of a ridgetop in the upper section of Los Carneros, overlooking the Bay, with the San Francisco skyline clearly visible across the water. It receives the perfect balance of warm sun and cooling bay winds, straight off the Pacific and through the Golden Gate. The soils are shale from an ancient inland sea, which lends a distinct minerality to the wines. The vineyard forms the Southern tip of the Mayacamas Mountains. Raptors hover overhead, riding the winds thrust up as the Bay breezes meet the Cressida hillside.

The Phoenix vineyard sits on some of the most unusual soils in the Napa Valley. While most of Napa soils are of volcanic origin, the steep East-facing hillside Phoenix Vineyard sits on a ridge of ancient marine shale soils. The rock content and sea minerals of these soils create unique wines with high-toned red fruits, perfumed and exotic, with a lightness in the mid-palate yet a long, firm, and structured finish.