



2022 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, Dead Fred Vineyard

- Soil is young volcanic rhyolite on a knoll top in Coombsville AVA.
- The pH is 3.78, the acidity is 5.9 g/l, and the alcohol is 13.0%. Only 408 cases produced.
- Estate-grown, Organically Farmed. Native yeast.
- Mineral, structured, red and black berry fruits.
- Decanter 98 points.

A single vineyard wine should have its own story to tell, a unique personality, and an innate balance and completeness. The Dead Fred Vineyard fits this bill. Cool San Francisco Bay breezes meet dry volcanic hillside to produce structured wine with opulence balanced by mineral tension.

Planted in 2001, we leased it in 2012 and started farming it ourselves, using organic practices to bring out the best from the special soil. The Dead Fred Vineyard is a core component of our Napa Valley Cabernet blend, but for our single vineyard offering we select a small amount of the wine (we harvest multiple times so have different lots to choose from) that we feel best describes the terroir.

The Dead Fred Vineyard in Coombsville sits on a rocky volcanic knolltop, with soil derived from volcanic ash with lots of rocks made from rhyolite (compressed volcanic ash). Its south-western exposure causes the soil to pick up heat during the day, but the proximity to the mouth of the Napa Valley, with its morning fog and afternoon sea breezes, keeps the air cool. This combination of warm volcanic soil and cool marine air creates fruit that is uncommonly structured and ripe, yet fresh and mineral.

We harvest the vineyard three times, choosing the rockiest portions first, and finishing with the lowest sections of the hill. The rocky areas give us the structure, and the lower areas give us the aromatics. We make our blend for the single vineyard from the three lots, before blending the rest into our Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon cuvee.

Elevage starts in a combination of new and used French barrique (Taransaud and Bousset) for richness and finishes in our used Austrian Stockinger Foudre to retain freshness and aromatics.

This wine always has signature black fruits and graphite, very full, yet elegant and mineral ("weight without heaviness"). This special wine will develop for many years.