

# Cakebread Cellars



## **2012 Syrah** **Suscol Springs Vineyard, Napa Valley**

### **Vineyards**

The fruit for our 2012 Napa Valley Syrah came exclusively from our Suscol Springs estate vineyard in southern Napa Valley, a hilly, cool and windy site with rocky, well-drained soils, a desirable southern exposure and six top-flight clones of the noble syrah variety, all originating in France's northern Rhône Valley, the grape's ancestral home. In 2012, we blended our syrah with 4% grenache, also from Suscol Springs, to amplify the wine's lush fruit character.

### **Vintage 2012**

2012 was a near-ideal growing season in Napa Valley, with a warm, dry spring fostering early budbreak and trouble-free flowering and grape set. Consistently mild summer weather free of rain or unwelcome heat spikes allowed us to harvest our syrah grapes with an optimal balance of ripe, concentrated fruit flavors and lively acidity.

### **Winemaking**

We harvest each of our syrah clones separately and ferment them in small open-top fermenters. Prior to fermentation, we cold soak the must for four to six days to maximize color extraction and soften tannins. During fermentation, we daily punch down the cap of skins at the top of the fermenting tanks to thoroughly macerate the skins and juice for optimal color and flavor, while closely monitoring tannin levels. Once fermentation completes, we drain the free-run juice by gravity and transfer the wines to French oak barrels (54% new in 2012). Our 2012 Syrah spent a total of 14 months aging in barrel prior to bottling in January, 2014.

### **Tasting Notes**

Displaying a beautiful purplish hue signaling its depth and intensity, our 2012 Syrah presents a perfumed nose of fresh blackberry, boysenberry and blueberry fruit complemented by roasted earth and mocha tones. On the palate, the wine is dense, juicy and mouthfilling, with flavors of blackberry, black cherry, currant and dark plum leading to a long, rich finish featuring a hint of sandalwood spice and bolstered by fine, supple tannins. Although this lush, sumptuous syrah is delicious now, it will develop further complexity with another 5-7 years' aging.

**Grape varieties:** 96% syrah, 4% grenache  
**Vineyards:** 100% Napa Valley, 100% estate  
**Harvest dates:** October 2-19, 2012  
**Fermentation:** small open-top tanks  
**Barrel aging:** 14 months in 54% new French oak

**Alcohol:** 14.1%  
**Total acidity:** 0.62 g/100 ml  
**pH:** 3.55  
**Bottled:** January, 2014  
**Winemaker:** Julianne Laks