

# Cakebread Cellars



## 2012 Vine Hill Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley

### Vineyards

Our 2012 Vine Hill Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon comes from three special blocks of vines – and two distinctive cabernet clones – in the acclaimed Vine Hill Ranch in Napa Valley’s western benchlands near Oakville. We have purchased these grapes from the Philips family, owner of Vine Hill Ranch, since 1982, and they have consistently produced superb, long-lived wines. Hand-harvested at night to preserve the fruit’s freshness and varietal purity, each of the three lots was fermented and barrel-aged separately. After assessing the distinctive personality of each wine, we blended the three to create a uniquely complex and intense cabernet sauvignon that speaks eloquently of its provenance.

### Vintage 2012

2012 was a truly spectacular 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 Vine Hill Ranch grapes at peak maturity with a perfect balance of deeply concentrated fruit flavors, bright acidity and ripe, supple tannins.

### Winemaking

Cakebread Cellars winemaker Julianne Laks employs traditional artisan winemaking techniques to maximize the extraction of color, flavor and tannin from our Vine Hill Ranch fruit. After the grapes are crushed, the juice from each lot is cold-soaked for 48 hours to enhance texture, depth and intensity prior to initiating fermentation with a cultured French yeast strain. Once fermentation completes, the wines enjoy an extended maceration on their skins to further extract color and flavor while softening tannins. The 2012 Vine Hill Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon spent 21 months in French oak barrels, 55% new, before bottling on July 28th, 2014.

### Tasting Notes

A dense, ripe, perfumed nose of blackberry, black plum and blackcurrant, coupled with intriguing lavender, loam, spice and mineral scents, prefaces an immensely concentrated palate packed with intense, potent, blackberry, cassis, mission fig and dark chocolate flavors beautifully structured by firm, supple tannins. Incredibly focused, with a spellbindingly long finish showcasing savory black cherry, spice and mineral tones, this remarkable cabernet sauvignon, among Napa Valley’s most distinctive, will age beautifully for a decade or more.

**Grape varieties:** 100% Cabernet Sauvignon  
**Vineyards:** 100% Vine Hill Ranch, Oakville  
**Harvest dates:** October 13-17, 2012  
**Fermentation:** 100% in stainless steel  
**Barrel aging:** 21 months in French oak, 55% new

**Alcohol:** 14.7%  
**Total acidity:** 0.60 g/100 ml  
**pH:** 3.63  
**Bottled:** July 28, 2014  
**Winemaker:** Julianne Laks