

Cakebread Cellars



2013 Napa Valley Syrah Suscol Springs Vineyard, Napa Valley

Vineyards

This single-vineyard syrah comes from our Suscol Springs Ranch in southeastern Napa Valley, a hilly, cool and windy site boasting rocky, well-drained soils, an ideal southern exposure and six top-flight clones of the noble syrah variety originating in France's northern Rhône Valley, the grape's ancestral home. These conditions enable us to craft a fresh, vibrant syrah with rich fruit flavors balanced by bright acidity.

Vintage 2012

In 2013, a warm, dry spring initiated early budbreak, ensured trouble-free vine flowering and grape set, and led to a consistently mild summer fostering steady, even ripening and grapes with wonderful flavor concentration. To enhance freshness and varietal intensity, we night- and hand-harvested our Suscol Springs syrah fruit between September 27th and October 15th.

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 (42% new in 2013). Our 2013 Suscol Springs Syrah spent 14 months aging in barrel prior to bottling in December, 2014.

Tasting Notes

This vintage of our single-vineyard syrah boasts a deep, saturated color and dense, concentrated aromas of blackberry, blueberry, olallieberry and cassis complemented by attractive violet/lavender scents. The full-bodied palate, bolstered by firm, yet elegant tannins, delivers bright, intense, blackberry, black cherry and blackcurrant flavors culminating in a long, savory finish featuring hints of mineral and spice. Although this lush, sumptuous syrah is delicious now, it will develop further complexity with another 5-7 years' aging.

Grape varieties: 100% syrah

Vineyards: 100% estate Napa Valley, Suscol Springs Ranch

Harvest dates: September 27- October 15, 2013

Fermentation: small open-top tanks

Barrel aging: 14 months in 42% new French oak

Alcohol: 14.2%

Total acidity: 0.65 g/100 ml

pH: 3.56

Bottled: December 9, 2014

Winemaker: Julianne Laks