

# Cakebread Cellars



## 2017 Syrah Suscol Springs Vineyard, Napa Valley

### Vineyards

The fruit for this estate-grown syrah comes exclusively from our Suscol Springs Vineyard in southeastern Napa Valley, a hilly, cool and windy site boasting rocky, well-drained soils and ideal southern and western exposures. We have five top-flight clones of the noble syrah variety planted at Suscol Springs, all originating in France's northern Rhône Valley, the grape's ancestral home. This clonal variation, coupled with the vineyard's singular attributes, allows us to craft a rich, complex and beautifully balanced syrah that matures beautifully in bottle.

### Vintage 2017

Even though the winter of 2017 was extremely wet for what we have become accustomed to here in the Napa Valley, the Syrah at our Suscol Springs Vineyard fared well due to the soil composition. The rocky site allowed for good drainage, allowing the vines to begin the growth cycle with just the right amount of moisture. Steady vine growth and berry development progressed evenly through the summer months. Late season heat spikes were mitigated by timely irrigation applications that lead to minimal berry dehydration and good concentration of flavors.

### Winemaking

Our 2017 Syrah is a blend of our five superior clones of the variety. Each clonal lot was harvested and fermented separately. Prior to fermentation, we cold soaked the lots for four to six days to maximize color extraction and soften tannins. During fermentation in small, open-top fermenters, we punched down the cap of skins at the top of the fermenting tanks daily to thoroughly macerate the skins and juice for optimal color and flavor while closely monitoring tannin levels. Once fermentation completed, we drained the free-run juice by gravity and transferred the wines to French oak barrels, 48% new, where they aged before blending. The wine spent a total of 15 months in French oak prior to bottling in January 2019.

### Tasting Notes

A deep, opaque, purplish color matches fragrant aromas of black currant and black cherry fruit, with hints of violet. Full-bodied and rich on the palate, the wine delivers warm, intense and superbly balanced blackberry, black cherry and dark chocolate flavors that culminate in a long, vibrant finish concentrated blackberry and raspberry. Impressive and complex now, this youthful syrah will age gracefully in bottle for another 7-10 years.

**Grape varieties:** 90% syrah, 10% grenache

**Vineyards:** 100% Napa Valley, Suscol Springs Vineyard

**Harvest dates:** September 30 – October 3, 2017

**Barrel aging:** 15 months in 48% new French oak

**Winemaker:** Stephanie Jacobs

**Alcohol:** 14.8%

**Total acidity:** 0.68g/100ml

**pH:** 3.55

**Bottled:** January, 2019