

Cakebread Cellars



2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley

Vineyards

The grapes for our Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon come from top vineyards throughout the valley's finest cabernet sauvignon appellations. Securing fruit from multiple, diverse sites, including our own estate vineyards, enables us to craft a rich, yet elegant cabernet sauvignon marrying the lush black fruit and sturdy tannins typical of the valley's warmer northern districts with the bright fruit and acidity characteristic of its cooler southern climes. In 2012, winemaker Julianne Laks tasted each vineyard lot a dozen times, conducting eight blending sessions to determine the final blend.

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 cabernet sauvignon grapes with an optimal balance of ripe, concentrated fruit flavors and lively acidity.

Winemaking

Each lot of our Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is separately harvested, fermented and barrel-aged before blending. Each is also cold-soaked for two days prior to fermentation to enhance color, flavor and tannin extraction. Tank size, yeast strain, fermentation temperature and barrel type are specifically tailored to the fruit character of each lot. In 2012, the component wines aged six months in French oak barrels, 54% new, before they were blended in May, 2013. The final blend then spent another 12 months in barrel before bottling in May, 2014.

Tasting Notes

Our 2012 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon boasts alluring, complex aromas of dense dark cherry, boysenberry and blackcurrant fruit supplemented by enticing toasted oak and dark chocolate scents. Rich and lush on the palate with deeply concentrated cassis, blackberry and black fig flavors, the wine culminates in a remarkably long finish showcasing ripe fruit, dark chocolate and wood spice tones framed by finely grained tannins. Seductive now for its luscious fruit, this classic Napa Valley cabernet will evolve beautifully in bottle over the next 7-10 years.

Composition: 84% cabernet sauvignon, 6% merlot,
6% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot

Vineyards: Napa Valley

Harvest dates: September 26 – October 26, 2012

Fermentation: 100% in stainless steel tanks

Barrel aging: 18 months in French oak barrels, 54% new

Alcohol: 14.3

Total acidity: 0.61 g/100ml

pH: 3.67

Bottled: May, 2014

Winemaker: Julianne Laks