

2020

Cakebread Cellars

NAPA VALLEY
Since 1973

BENCHLAND SELECT CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY

The 2020 Benchland Select shows an opaque ruby hue in the glass, opening with jammy dark fruit notes of blueberry and plum. With time, notes of cigar box, dried oregano, and forest floor emerge. On the palate, this Cabernet segues from dark fruit notes to savory undertones, while showing off a silky texture. Full-bodied and dense in structure, the wine's long finish is driven by firm tannins plus hints of cocoa and vanilla.

VINEYARDS & VINTAGE

This 100% Cabernet Sauvignon comes from a blend of vineyard sites located on the benchlands of the Napa Valley floor—including Hill Ranch, which surrounds the Rutherford home of Jack and Dolores Cakebread. These sites are considered world-class areas for Cabernet Sauvignon because of their distinctive bale loam soils. These soils are well-draining yet retain water around the vine roots, resulting in small, concentrated berries capable of producing powerful, long-lived wines. The vineyards behind the Benchlands Select Cabernet Sauvignon lie on the Western edge of Napa Valley so they experience cooler overall temperatures, allowing the grapes to retain vibrant acidity and yield balanced, multifaceted wines.

The 2020 vintage began with a mild winter and long spring, setting up our vines for a warm season. Consistently high summer temperatures coupled with drought conditions led to a naturally small and high-quality harvest of deeply colored and concentrated Cabernet Sauvignon ideal for cellaring.

WINEMAKING

Each of the Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards in this blend, including Hill Ranch, Vine Hill Ranch, and Oakville Ranch were harvested separately when the grapes reached ideal ripeness. Picked at night to retain maximum freshness and vibrancy, the grapes were gently destemmed and fermented in small tanks to achieve a superior balance between color concentration, tannin extraction, and flavor. After fermentation, the wine was blended and aged in French oak barrels (56% new) for 22 months. Each barrel was selected specifically to enhance the Benchland character of the wine, combining dark fruit flavor with roundness, texture, and length on the palate.

GRAPE VARIETY

100% Cabernet Sauvignon

VINEYARDS

100% Napa Valley

HARVEST DATES

September 17-29, 2020

WINEMAKER

Stephanie Jacobs

NOTES

ALCOHOL 14.8%

ACIDITY 0.634G/100 ml

PH 3.60

BOTTLE July 2022

AGING Aged 22 months in
56% new French
oak, 44% neutral
French oak

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