



Girard
NAPA VALLEY

2017 CABERNET SAUVIGNON
RUTHERFORD, NAPA VALLEY

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2017 growing season was not like the past few vintages; it wasn't particularly "easy" or "by the book" but it was an opportunity to flex our grape growing and wine making skills and we remain proud of the high-quality wine we produced in this vintage. The year began with abundant rainfall. Spring weather was mild, resulting in extended flowering. A freak hail storm passed through quickly in June causing isolated damage. A warm summer was punctuated by three heat events, including one over Labor Day weekend, which kicked harvest into high gear by early September. Cool weather arrived immediately afterward, allowing sugar levels to return to normal and affording the grapes additional hang-time on the vine. Fermentation temperatures were kept deliberately low to retain fresh fruit flavors and color extraction. Carefully selected French oak barrels rounded out the élevage (or barrel aging) process, ensuring a wine rich character and complexity.

VINEYARD NOTES

The grapes for our Rutherford Cabernet Sauvignon were sourced from vineyards on either side of the Rutherford bench. One vineyard is located near Highway 29, the other, a small block along the Silverado Trail, in melding these two distinctive vineyard sources we find incredible complexity in our finished Rutherford Cabernet Sauvignon.

TASTING NOTES

This wine reveals red fruit aromas, red cherry and currant, followed by aromas of toasty oak and mocha. The palate is well-structured with dense tannins bursting with more red cherry, blackberry and plum flavors dusted with crushed mineral notes and a hint of dried herbs. This robust wine packs a punch on the finish which is sure to delight fans of Rutherford Cabernet.

VARIETAL COMPOSITION 98% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot

APPELLATION Rutherford District, Napa Valley | **OAK AGING** 18 months in French oak, 65% new

ALCOHOL 14.9% | **pH** 3.74 | **TA** 6.0 g/L | **Residual Sugar** 1.05 g/L | **PRODUCTION** 148 cases