NAPA VALLEY

THE FABRIC OF THE LAND

"FOR MANY GENERATIONS, NAPA VALLEY HAS BEEN HOME TO A MYRIAD OF CLASSIC RED VARIETALS, WELL BEYOND CABERNET. WITH THIS BLEND OF PETITE SIRAH, MERLOT, ZINFANDEL, AND PETIT VERDOT AND A TIP OF OUR HATS TO MY HERITAGE WE HAVE CRAFTED 'THE FABRIC OF THE LAND.'"

Joseph J. Wagner, FIFT

JOSEPH WAGNER, FIFTH GENERATION NAPA VALLEY WINEMAKER

2019 NAPA VALLEY RED WINE

For our Napa Valley Quilt, we work with grapes representing the diversity of varietals cultivated in the Napa Valley AVA. We source Petite Sirah, Merlot, Zinfandel, and Petit Verdot grapes from a spectrum of Napa Valley proper. From Oak Knoll in the South to Calistoga in the North. The result of blending these diverse varietals and regions yields wines of extraordinary concentration of flavor, color, and texture. While the majority of the fruit comes from the valley floor, we also relied on grapes grown on the foot-slopes to achieve the texture and grip we desired.

2019 GROWING SEASON

The 2019 growing season began with an unseasonably warm and extremely dry winter until a series of cold winter storms brought much-needed precipitation in mid-January. The cold, wet weather continued through March, with temperatures 4-6°F below normal and rainfall 150-250% above normal. This delayed the onset of bud break and early grapevine growth. April was warm, sunny, and dry, which led to rapid grapevine growth that persisted well into early May. In mid-May, cold, wet weather returned with some of the highest rainfall totals ever recorded for the month in Northern California. Summer was mild and warm, which allowed the crop to size up uniformly during bloom and fruit set. Then, in August, the weather turned hot and veraison was completed for all varietals across Napa County. Despite the high temperatures, a persistent marine layer kept the evenings cool in the valleys and on the hillside vineyards. Due to favorable autumn weather, the fruit ripened evenly while retaining vibrant acidity and developing exceptional flavors and brilliant colors. We began picking the fruit on the hillside and mountainous areas of Napa Valley in mid-September and completed the harvest by the end of October.

WINEMAKER NOTES

Our winemaking begins in the vineyards, picking fruit at optimum physiological maturity to create a blend that highlights the outstanding terroir of the Napa Valley. From the moment the grapes are harvested until final blending, each vineyard lot is kept separate. Once in the cellar, each lot is worked within a tailor-made fashion. Typically beginning with a deep cold soak, (cryoextraction) to best prepare the skins to give up all the phenolics and color they can during fermentation. Cold and long fermentations allow ample time to coax these elements out. Finally, extended maceration to soften harsh tannins. Then, we age the wines in French Oak barrels. The Petite Sirah adds spice and complexity, while the Merlot contributes round mouthfeel and soft tannins. Next, the Zinfandel provides a vibrant fruit core, and Petit Verdot gives structure and color to the final blend: The Fabric of the Land, Napa Valley.

TASTING NOTES

COLOR: Deep plum with scarlet red highlights.

AROMA: Abundant aromas of ripe plum, blackberry, and cranberry followed by hints of vanilla malt, sweet hickory, and black pepper.

PALATE: Rich and complex with flavors of ripe dark fruits, chocolate cherry, caramel, and blackberry pie. This wine has a lingering fruit-forward finish with firm acidity and subtle tannins.

FOOD PAIRING

Enjoy with a grilled steak, a spicy Cioppino, or a hamburger sprinkled liberally with blue cheese.





