

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

NAPA VALLEY

élevé
MT. VEEDER

2019

CROUSE VINEYARD

The Vineyard: Crouse Vineyard is a 16-acre vineyard planted primarily to Cabernet Sauvignon located in the heart of the Mount Veeder appellation of Napa Valley. Mount Veeder is a volcanic peak that rises to over 2600 feet. Most of this beautiful appellation is covered in Oak, Madrone, Laurel, Fir and Redwood trees with sweeping vineyards carved in to the steep hillsides. This is mountain farming at its best. The rugged landscape and diverse volcanic soils produce extremely low yielding, but intensely concentrated fruit, which makes for wines with amazing complexity. Crouse ranges in elevation from 700 to just over 1000 feet. In 2016 we selected fruit from the Bacchus Block. This unique steep terraced hillside block is literally carved in to the mountain and we were immediately drawn to it. Still youthful, this hillside block is planted entirely to Clone 337 Cabernet Sauvignon producing extremely small berries and tiny yields. A perfect site for élevé!

Winemaking: The Cabernet Sauvignon grapes from Crouse's Bacchus Block are so unique and distinctively flavored our job in stewarding the grapes to wine is to capture that very essence with as gentle handling as possible. The grapes were hand picked in the early morning. We gently de-stemmed, sorted the fruit and gravity fed the whole berries in to an open top fermenter for cold soak and primary fermentation using only native yeasts. The grapes were punched down by hand two times a day for approximately two and a half weeks after which the wine was pressed in to French Oak Barrels, 60% new, for malo-lactic fermentation and aging. The wine aged in barrel for 30 months, was racked and bottled unfiltered.

The Wine: Displays an opaque, deep purple color and an expressive nose of Crème de cassis, mulberries, blueberry pie and licorice with hints of olive tapenade, mountain underbrush, pencil shavings, tobacco and cedar. Medium to full-bodied and rich with a core of concentrated black and blue fruits coming in savory layers, accented by dusty earth, bay leaf and spicebox. Firmly structured and vibrant, the complex fruit is supported by fine powdery tannins that intermingle with the fruit and linger on the long, elegant finish.

(100 Cases Produced)

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