

CARDINALE

2014

NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

“One of the great rewards for any winemaker is the look of anticipation, joy, and satisfaction that comes as people experience the wines we produce. That moment, more than anything, drives our passion for the work we do. The most interesting aspect about this process is the combination of analytical and artistic styles. One must learn to move from thinking with the left hemisphere of the brain (the logician) to the right (the artist), which is not as easy as it might sound.

Cardinale is, for me, a wine that takes the most effort from a right-hemisphere perspective. Most of the year I am living and thinking in the left side of the brain—overseeing the nuances of the vineyards, the pathology and development of the wine. In May, I switch to the other hemisphere. Having close to 50 individual wines to evaluate with the goal of creating one wine, I must focus on narrowing those down to create a palate of aromatic subtlety, taste bud intensity, complexity, and textural depth and length. In order to do this I have to “see” the patterns of each wine individually and understand how they layer together when blended.

With the 2014 vintage, a smooth and steady growing season that had only a few short heat spikes, I finally decided on 24 different wines, spanning six different appellations and 12 vineyard sites. Roughly 33% of the final blend came from Spring Mountain whose vineyard sites have soils composed primarily of volcanic loam, imparting fine tannins and delicate floral notes to the wine. To the east on Howell Mountain, we have two estate vineyards making up roughly 25% that contribute dark fruit characters, herbs and weight adding complexity and depth.

Whether you are a typical left-brain or right-brain thinker, I believe your entire brain, heart and palate will enjoy this wine now and for years to come.”

- CHRISTOPHER CARPENTER, WINEMAKER

WINE STATISTICS

APPELLATION: 100% Napa Valley
COMPOSITION: 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot
BARREL AGING: 19 months in 100% French oak, 94% new
ALCOHOL: 14.7%
FINISHING: Unfined and Unfiltered

VINEYARD	Wurtele	Veeder Peak	W.S. Keyes	Yverdon	La Jota	Wallis	Rhyolite	Mt. Brave	Spring Mountain	Clos du Val	W.S. Keyes	Van Z
APPELLATION	Spring Mountain District	Mount Veeder	Howell Mountain	Spring Mountain District	Howell Mountain	Diamond Mountain District	Diamond Mountain District	Mount Veeder	Spring Mountain District	Stags Leap	Howell Mountain	St. Helena
ELEVATION	1,000 ft.	1,800 ft.	1,825 ft.	2,100 ft.	1,800 ft.	1,500 ft.	1,500 ft.	1,600 ft.	1,800 ft.	65 - 85 ft.	1,825 ft.	150 ft.
SOIL	volcanic loam	gravelly loam, black soils	white & red volcanic rocky loam	volcanic loam	rhyolitic tuff, iron clay, volcanic rock	volcanic loam	volcanic loam	gravelly loam, black soils	volcanic loam	haire loam, and bale clay loam	white & red volcanic rocky loam	gravelly loam
VARIETY	Cabernet Sauvignon	Cabernet Sauvignon	Merlot	Cabernet Sauvignon	Cabernet Sauvignon	Cabernet Sauvignon	Cabernet Sauvignon	Cabernet Sauvignon	Cabernet Sauvignon	Cabernet Sauvignon	Cabernet Sauvignon	Cabernet Sauvignon
% CONTRIBUTION	17.5%	13%	12%	11%	10%	8%	7.5%	6%	5%	5%	3.5%	1.5%
CONTRIBUTION TO THE BLEND	fine tannins, floral, red fruit	blue fruit, length, backbone	dark fruit, herb, weight	fine tannins, floral, red fruit	dark fruit, herb, weight	sweet, middle, some red	sweet, middle, some red	blue fruit, length, backbone	fine tannins, floral, red fruit	sweet red, middle, fine tannin	dark fruit, herb, weight	middle, red/dark, lush

98 POINTS

“A wine of great intensity, silky tannins and adequate acidity, this is clearly one of the great, great wines of the vintage, and another tour de force in winemaking from Carpenter.” - ROBERT M. PARKER, JR., *The Wine Advocate*, OCTOBER 2016