

CARDINALE

2002

NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Grapes arrived at our Oakville winery in small 30 pound lug boxes to prevent premature crushing. Hand-sorted and destemmed, grapes were gently crushed into specially designed, semi-open top, stainless steel fermentation tanks. This unique open-top configuration allows for lower alcohol conversion, permitting our winemaker to prolong harvest and ensure full ripeness. During native yeast fermentation, the tanks are “pumped over” two or three times per day. After fermentation, free run juice was sent to barrel with a small portion of wine pressed from a traditional basket press, ideal for controlling soft tannin extraction. The wine was aged in 100% new French oak barrels for 22 months before an unfiltered bottling.

“The 2002 Cardinale opens up with violets, anise, dark fruit and a hint of vanilla on the nose. The palate is rich and velvety with sweet tannins, a tremendous middle body and a Mt. Veeder finish of acid and structure to carry the wine way past swallowing.”

- CHRISTOPHER CARPENTER, WINEMAKER

WINE STATISTICS

APPELLATION:	100% Napa Valley
COMPOSITION:	88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot
BARREL AGING:	22 months in 100% new French oak barrels
ALCOHOL:	14.3%
FINISHING:	Egg White fined. Bottled unfiltered.

VINEYARD	Veeder Peak	To-Kalon	W.S. Keyes
APPELLATION	Mount Veeder	Oakville	Howell Mountain
ELEVATION	1,800 ft.	150 ft.	1,825 ft.
SOIL	gravelly loam, black soils	gravelly loam	white & red volcanic rocky loam
VARIETY	Cabernet Sauvignon	Cabernet Sauvignon	Merlot
% CONTRIBUTION	62%	26%	12%
CONTRIBUTION TO THE BLEND	blue fruit, length, backbone	black cherry, richness, opulence	dark fruit, herb, weight

96 POINTS

“A profound blend from superstar winemaker Chris Carpenter, the 2002 Cardinale is composed of 88% Cabernet Sauvignon and 12% Merlot... This spectacular 2002 is drinkable, but it is still 3-4 years away from its plateau of full maturity. A large-scaled, intense, extraordinary Cabernet Sauvignon that combines power with elegance, it exhibits an inky/ruby/purple color as well as a sweet nose of vanilla, toast, creme de cassis, cedar and licorice. With gorgeous ripeness and texture in addition to a multidimensional personality, it can be drunk now, but will be even better in a few years. It will last for 15-20 years.”

- ROBERT M. PARKER, JR., *The Wine Advocate*, JUNE 2012