

# CARDINALE

2003

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.

“A more challenging vintage means a more challenging blend period, as it was for this blend. After compiling at least 20 different blends, I kept coming back to this wine. The black currant, anise and minerality of Mount Veeder and Howell Mountain combine with the middle gravelly palate of Oakville and the sweet/soft character of Stags’ Leap.” - CHRISTOPHER CARPENTER, WINEMAKER

## WINE STATISTICS

APPELLATION: 100% Napa Valley  
COMPOSITION: 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot  
BARREL AGING: 22 months in 100% new French oak barrels  
ALCOHOL: 14.5%  
FINISHING: Egg White fined. Bottled unfiltered.

VINEYARD	Veeder Peak	W.S. Keyes	W.S. Keyes	Taylor	To-Kalon
APPELLATION	Mount Veeder	Howell Mountain	Howell Mountain	Stags Leap	Oakville
ELEVATION	1,800 ft.	1,825 ft.	1,825 ft.	135 ft.	150 ft.
SOIL	gravelly loam, black soils	white & red volcanic rocky loam	white & red volcanic rocky loam	gravelly loam	gravelly loam
VARIETY	Cabernet Sauvignon	Merlot	Cabernet Sauvignon	Cabernet Sauvignon	Cabernet Sauvignon
% CONTRIBUTION	68.5%	14%	7%	7%	3.5%
CONTRIBUTION TO THE BLEND	blue fruit, length, backbone	dark fruit, herb, weight	dark fruit, herb, weight	red fruit, sweet, soft tannin, spice	black cherry, richness, opulence

96 POINTS

“Winemaker Chris Carpenter produced 760 cases of this blend of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Merlot from four sources, a vineyard on Howell Mountain called Keyes, Veeder Peak, To-Kalon and Stags Leap. ...the superb 2003 Cardinale is performing even better than I remember, having put on weight and filled out. It exhibits a deep ruby/purple color along with sweet kirsch, black currant, Christmas fruitcake, cedarwood and forest floor notes. Deep, full-bodied and voluptuously textured with sweet tannins still in evidence, it can be drunk over the next 15 years.”

- ROBERT M. PARKER, JR., *The Wine Advocate*, JUNE 2013