

CARDINALE

2004

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 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 21 months before an unfiltered bottling.

“When we approach the Cardinale blend, the key to success is finding the balance between the mountainsides and the valley floor. Both our Oakville vineyard and the Stags Leap portion of the blend represented higher percentages in the 2004 final blend because it was clear that the mountain wines needed the middle body that these valley floor vineyards provide. The sweetness of the Stags Leap and the weight of Oakville fit in gracefully with the strength, minerality and black fruit characters from Veeder and Howell, and together they all play off of one another.”
- CHRISTOPHER CARPENTER, WINEMAKER

WINE STATISTICS

APPELLATION: 100% Napa Valley
COMPOSITION: 91% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot
BARREL AGING: 21 months in 100% new French oak barrels
ALCOHOL: 14.7%
FINISHING: Egg White fined. Bottled unfiltered.

VINEYARD	Veeder Peak	Taylor	W.S. Keyes	W.S. Keyes	To-Kalon
APPELLATION	Mount Veeder	Stags Leap	Howell Mountain	Howell Mountain	Oakville
ELEVATION	1,800 ft.	135 ft.	1,825 ft.	1,825 ft.	150 ft.
SOIL	gravelly loam, black soils	gravelly loam	white & red volcanic rocky loam	white & red volcanic rocky loam	gravelly loam
VARIETY	Cabernet Sauvignon	Cabernet Sauvignon	Cabernet Sauvignon	Merlot	Cabernet Sauvignon
% CONTRIBUTION	62.7%	11.7%	9.6%	9%	7%
CONTRIBUTION TO THE BLEND	blue fruit, length, backbone	red fruit, sweet, soft tannin, spice	dark fruit, herb, weight	dark fruit, herb, weight	black cherry, richness, opulence

96 POINTS

“Winemaker Chris Carpenter has turned out a brilliant wine that’s a blend of 91% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9% Merlot, from the To-Kalon, Taylor, Veeder Peak and Keyes vineyards, so this is definitely a cross-Napa Valley offering. This wine has an opaque purple color, a big sweet kiss of licorice, incense, lead pencil shavings and a boatload of creme de cassis and blueberry liqueur. Tannins are present, but ripe, and the wine is voluptuously textured and full-bodied, with stunning purity and stature on the palate. This is one serious, yet approachable, proprietary red that can be drunk now, or cellared for another 10-15+ years.”

- ROBERT M. PARKER, JR., *The Wine Advocate*, APRIL 2014