

CARDINALE

2009

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.

“Cardinale works to layer all facets of the Napa Valley into a composition that is not unlike a beautiful score of music. The 2009 Cardinale shows this layering in its rose petal, mineral, and cassis-driven nose, and its blackberry, dragon fruit, dark chocolate, and silky mouth-filling texture-driven palate.”
- CHRISTOPHER CARPENTER, WINEMAKER

WINE STATISTICS

APPELLATION:	100% Napa Valley
COMPOSITION:	91% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot
BARREL AGING:	22 months in 100% new French oak barrels
ALCOHOL:	14.9%
FINISHING:	Egg White fined. Bottled unfiltered.

VINEYARD	Veeder Peak	W.S. Keyes	W.S. Keyes	Spring Mountain	Van Z	Andrew Geoffrey
APPELLATION	Mount Veeder	Howell Mountain	Howell Mountain	Spring Mountain District	St. Helena	Diamond Mountain District
ELEVATION	1,800 ft.	1,825 ft.	1,825 ft.	1,800 ft.	150 ft.	1,850 ft.
SOIL	gravelly loam, black soils	white & red volcanic rocky loam	white & red volcanic rocky loam	volcanic loam	gravelly loam	volcanic loam
VARIETY	Cabernet Sauvignon	Cabernet Sauvignon	Merlot	Cabernet Sauvignon	Cabernet Sauvignon	Cabernet Sauvignon
% CONTRIBUTION	45%	31.5%	9%	5.5%	5.5%	3.5%
CONTRIBUTION TO THE BLEND	blue fruit, length, backbone	dark fruit, herb, weight	dark fruit, herb, weight	fine tannins, floral, red fruit	middle, red/dark, lush	middle, red/dark, lush

93 POINTS

"The 2009 Cardinale is a gorgeous, beautifully balanced wine endowed with gorgeous textural finesse and depth. Dark red fruit, spices and mint are woven together beautifully in this supple, engaging wine. Bright floral notes add lift, freshness and vibrancy on the finish. There is enough finesse to make the 2009 approachable early, but also enough richness to suggest the wine will drink early for a number of years... Anticipated maturity: 2014-2029."

- ANTONIO GALLONI, *The Wine Advocate*, DECEMBER 2011