



2015 RUTHERFORD HILLSIDE WINEMAKER NOTES

Tucked behind our old family home on the northwestern edge of the Rutherford appellation is our Hillside Reserve Vineyard. This benchland site sweeps dramatically up the hillside, bordering an ancient creek and wrapping around the natural springs that give our winery its name. The Hillside Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, sourced from Block J on the vineyard's steep slope, was the first Cabernet we chose to bottle on its own. The low-yielding 2015 vintage produced intensely concentrated Cabernet Sauvignon grapes, and our Rutherford Hillside displays a dense mix of black and red fruits – boysenberry, black raspberry, deep plum, dark cherry and Mission fig. Secondary flavors of licorice, cocoa, graphite and chaparral are apparent on the midpalate, and the wine gains spicy complexity from aging in a combination of mostly French and some American oak barrels. This is a richly textured, beautifully polished Napa Valley Cab with a smooth yet muscular structure, promising long term aging potential as well as immediate gratification.

ALL THE FACTS

Appellation: *Rutherford*

Varietal: *100% Cabernet Sauvignon*

Cases Produced: *405*

Aging: *18 months, French (87%) and American oak barrels (13%), (65% new)*

Suggested Retail Price: *\$150*

Enjoyability: *Drink now or cellar. Pull the cork until 2035 for optimum enjoyment.*

ON THE VINE

The 2015 vintage in Napa Valley will be remembered for high quality but low yields. The growing season began with warm temperatures in late winter and early spring resulting in an early bud break. In May, colder temperatures during bloom caused fruit set to be uneven, yielding a much smaller crop compared to earlier vintages. Winemakers and vineyard managers worked closely together as the season progressed to ensure grapes ripened uniformly. The harvest, which was in full swing by mid-August, was one of the earliest on record in Napa Valley, and most vintners completed picking by mid-October. Although the continuing drought was a concern around California, Napa Valley received 75% of its annual rainfall average in 2015 making it less worrisome for vintners.