

1994 CABERNET SAUVIGNON Napa Valley

THE BLEND

79% Cabernet Sauvignon 21% Cabernet Franc

RELEASE DATE
December 1996

STATISTICS
13.9% alcohol
6.0 g/L total acidity
3.7 pH

WINEMAKING
aged 21 months in French
oak barrels
unfiltered
unfined

WINEMAKER John Williams

A BRIEF HISTORY

Starting a winery in the Napa Valley meant that Frog's Leap would almost have to make a Cabernet Sauvignon at some point. It took us only one year to realize this very simple truth - Napa is perfectly suited to grow great Cabernet. The rocky, fast draining soils of the Rutherford Bench, the misty, late morning fog rolling in from the San Pablo Bay and that ever-present California sun.

But what kind of Cabernet to make? There were the closed, tight fisted, cough-and-hack Cabs of the late 70's or the now popular pick-late, sweet fruit, high alcohol wines of the early 21st century. Instead of chasing fads we simply learned from the past, favoring the lessons passed on by generations of Bordeaux winemakers and carried forward by Tchelistcheff, Daniel and de Latour. Our attempt is not to emulate anyone, but rather to avoid sacrificing the balance between Cabernet's ripe fruit character and its lean herbaceous side at the altar of over-extraction and manipulation.

For 30 years now we have stuck by our principles and the resulting style of wine. A Cabernet Sauvignon that is beautifully balanced and drinkable when young, just as it is beautifully balanced and drinkable when old. We believe, and hopefully you will see, that wines that are built to impress rather than satisfy typically do neither.

ABOUT THE WINE

The 1994 Cabernet Sauvignon is a great wine from an exceptional vintage. Deep, complex aromas of chocolate and black fruits are complemented with tremendous concentration of flavors of extraordinary balance. Like most great wines, our '94 Cabernet Sauvignon comes from simple beginnings: well-tended, organically-grown vineyards on Napa Valley's famed alluvial benchland and careful yet non-intrusive winemaking. Powerful, yet graceful, gentle almost delicate like an old friend or favorite memory.