



FROG'S LEAP

2011 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Napa Valley

THE BLEND

77% Cabernet sauvignon
14% Cabernet franc
9% Merlot

RELEASE DATE

November 2013

STATISTICS

harvested —
September 30 – October 27
22.7° brix at harvest
13.2% alcohol
5.8 g/L total acidity
3.69 pH
aged 19 months in French oak

WINEMAKERS

John Williams
Paula Moschetti

VINEYARDIST

Frank Leeds

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

Why does it seem that every great vintage of Cabernet sauvignon comes with a story of an obstacle that nearly stood in its way? Does the threat of disaster somehow sweeten the fruit or intensify the flavor? 2011—a vintage nearly perfect in every way—was suddenly threatened literally on the eve of the Cabernet harvest with an intense and prolonged rainstorm. Celebration gave way to dedication to save the crop and a comfortable harvest gave way to making some challenging winemaking decisions.

It is cliché perhaps that the very best wineries show their colors in a difficult vintage. Frog's Leap is very proud to offer its 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon as Exhibit "A" in that discussion. Classically proportioned, deeply fragrant, beautifully balanced, this wine is only just now beginning to show its promise. Aromatics of black currant and cigar box are followed by rich flavors of plum and green tea. The perfect partner to complement your Côte de Boeuf, in the short term, but will delightfully accompany your Stilton for many years to come.