



FROG'S LEAP

2020 Napa Valley Fires

The Impact at Frog's Leap

--The experience gained from 2017 has proved invaluable, as painful as that knowledge came. We became familiar not only with the potential effects of smoke on the aroma of wine, but also on the palate and texture of the wine. These concerns led us to dispose of 30% of our 2017 Cabernet harvest due to effects from the fires—the reward came in the form of high ratings and a wine we will forever be proud of. We intend to repeat that in 2020.

--The LNU Lightning fire, despite igniting in mid-August, saw favorable winds carry the smoke away from the main valley for the duration of harvest, with no ultimate effect on the vintage. This has been confirmed with extensive testing and tasting of a broad array of lots, including SB, Chard, Zin, MT and pre-Glass fire Cabernet picks.

--A dry winter, light yields and warm weather during August and September meant that 95% of our total harvest was picked and fermenting by the time the Glass fire ignited, late on Sunday September 27th. This was an unusually early harvest end date, even for Frog's Leap, but it proved to our advantage.

--The ignition 6 miles north and favorable winds kept the skies blue above Rutherford until late in the afternoon on the 28th, when upper-level smoke began to trickle in. Thanks to the heroic efforts of our vineyard crew, the bulk of our remaining crop was safely harvested on 9/28.

--We finished our harvest on the 29th with two small picks. Heavy smoke started to descend into Rutherford and southern AVAs as the week progressed. This descent of heavy smoke is what prompted the large-scale difficulties across the broader valley with smoke taint.

--All lots from 9/28 and 9/29 have been held separate. Multiple rounds of testing with the AWRI in Australia and with ETS in California, as well as extensive internal tastings, have shown no evidence of the wines being affected by smoke.

--The 2020 blend has yet to be finalized, as we are still holding all lots separate for additional rounds of tasting and testing. However, I am certain, given our experience with smoke taint and our extreme caution, that none of our 2020 wines will show effects from the fires, and we will largely have a complete lineup of wines.

--To reiterate, we will not release a smoke-affected wine from 2020.

- Rory Williams