



FROG'S LEAP

2022 CABERNET FRANC CHAVEZ LEEDS VINEYARD RUTHERFORD NAPA VALLEY

A BRIEF HISTORY

In 1926, with Prohibition in full swing, Apolonio and Emily Chavez moved their young family from the East Bay town of Alameda up to the Napa Valley. With no market for the Zinfandel and Petite Sirah grapes on their newly acquired 37 acres, they chose to replace the vines with walnut trees. It would take 30 years and a second generation in charge before there would be more grapes than walnuts planted on this beautiful Rutherford Bench property. Another 40 years later, with the third and fourth generations of the Chavez-Leeds family now in charge, this land was finally beginning to fully realize its potential.

In many ways the story of this remarkable vineyard—and the five generations of the Chavez-Leeds family that have farmed it—is the story of the Napa Valley itself. The hopes and dreams of generations of families, enchanted by this magical place that we call Napa, have survived the challenges of world events, market booms and busts and the inherent risks of a running and keeping a family farming business. Of all the fortunate things that have happened to Frog's Leap over our forty-plus years, very few can top our relationship with the Chavez-Leeds family and their remarkable grapes, which have been a part of Frog's Leap wines since 1989.

ABOUT THE WINE

The block of Cabernet Franc at Chavez-Leeds, planted in 1989, has been an essential component of Frog's Leap Cabernet wines since our move to Rutherford, helping to provide lift and tension to our Cabernet Sauvignon. As this block has gained in age, we've been increasingly tempted to bottle a little bit of it on its own to show off the nuances of this multitasking grape. Rich cranberry and red plum aromas walk in lockstep with Franc's classic, powerful top note of fig leaf, dried sage and dusty earth. I've always loved how this top note exists in harmony with a rich, resonant and sneaky powerful palate, adding density and intensity without upsetting the wine's balance. Cab Franc is what a naysayer would call "green"—a term used to mark non-compliant wines during the steroids era of Napa Cabernet, when a red wine's only virtue lay in how opulently fruity it was. By contrast, I believe that this savory, herbal character is essential, and one of the most terroir-sensitive elements of great Cabernet Sauvignon, Cab Franc and Merlot wines from Napa Valley. Give it air, give it time in the glass, and share it with great food and great company. —RW



THE BLEND

100% Cabernet Franc
100% Chavez-Leeds Vineyard, Rutherford

THE VINES

Dry-farmed and certified 100% organic.

WINEMAKERS

John Williams
Rory Williams
Pablo Polanco

STATISTICS

harvested: September 26, 2022
harvest chemistry: 23.6 deg. Brix, 6.14 g/L TA, 3.67 pH
final chemistry: 13.4% alc., 5.9 g/L TA,
3.73 pH, 0.01% RS
bottled: December 1, 2023
634 cases produced

VINEYARDIST

Frank Leeds

BALANCE, RESTRAINT AND DEEP RESPECT FOR THE NATURAL EXPRESSION OF THE VINE