

2012 CABERNET FRANC

CALISTOGA

VINTAGE NOTES

Valley floor or hillside, it didn't matter; 2012 was a great year for Napa Valley winegrowing. Moderate temperatures with no heat spikes made for ideal conditions in the warmer north of the valley, where extreme heat can ripen fruit a little faster than their southern counterparts. In the Elusa Estate Vineyard, the fruit took its time. Even with an early flowering and no rain, the clusters hung well beyond previous harvest dates.

Coming on the heels of the cold, wet 2011 vintage that produced the smallest Napa Cabernet crop most in the valley had ever seen, 2012 saw the welcome return of good fruit set, sunny days, and a long, slow ripening window that yielded big clusters, big berries, and big, concentrated wines.

Elusa's debut marks a truly auspicious moment at the start of a long run of outstanding Napa Valley vintages. These inaugural 2012 wines were fermented by Kurt Venge from 100% Elusa Estate fruit, and blended and bottled by Thomas Rivers Brown at the estate winery.

VINEYARD NOTES

Elusa's 2012 and 2013 vintages were grown in our Estate vineyard that was replanted in 2018, so these wines are unique opportunity to taste the wines that drew our winemakers to this terroir in the first place. Located in the Calistoga AVA, the vineyard's higher elevation leads to more balanced and acidic wines, though still considered valley floor. The vineyard consists of bale loam soil known for being rich in nutrients which result in high-quality wine grapes.

TASTING NOTES

This Cabernet Franc holds its own as rich, bold wine. Deep maroon in color, this sophisticated, single-varietal showcases notes of dried cranberry, cassis, cedar and currants. Elusa's library Cabernet Francs have become a favorite among guests, and the 2012 is a prime example of why. Elegant and smooth to drink, notes of cooking herbs bring a bit of spice to the finish.



TECHNICAL DATA

APPELLATION | CALISTOGA - NAPA VALLEY
VARIETAL | 100% CABERNET FRANC
VINEYARD SOURCE | ELUSA ESTATE
AGING | 20 MONTHS
COOPERS | BARON & TREUIL
ALCOHOL | 14.7%
BOTTLING DATE | JUNE 2014
PRODUCTION | 100 CASES
WINEMAKER | THOMAS RIVERS BROWN



ELUSA

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