

2017 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

CALISTOGA | NAPA VALLEY

VINTAGE NOTES

It was a year no one in Napa Valley will soon forget. Intensive winter rains in early 2017 brought widespread flooding that signaled, in no uncertain terms, the end of Northern California's drought. Summer began with a pair of heat spikes in June and culminated in a brutal Labor Day heat wave, with daytime temperatures soaring as high 120 degrees and nighttime offering little relief. But the most dramatic events of 2017 sparked on the bone-dry night of October 8 and quickly whipped into a complex of wildfires that burned thousands of acres and hundreds of homes.

As devastating as these fires were, they had little impact on the 2017 vintage. Harvest and crush were complete and the Elusa wines in barrel before the blaze ignited. It was the extreme September heat that posed a greater challenge, with fruit still on the vine, but our Lantz Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon pushed through that with little complaint. Yield was tiny and produced "near-term" drinkers: easy to enjoy upon release, while the other super-structured vintages surrounding it come into their own.

VINEYARD NOTES

Working with Lantz Vineyard means sourcing fruit from the immediate neighborhood. We started sourcing here in 2014. Edgar Lantz grows his fruit at the foot of the Oat Hill Mine Trail. Working with these vineyards keeps winemaking at Elusa obsessively local.

TASTING NOTES

Unlike its preceding and following vintages, 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon presents itself in a subdued manner - we see lighter red fruits with notes of cranberry, coridals, and pomegranate. This wine is light on it's feet, not as dense as its peers, but don't let that fool you - it is still focused, precise and compelling. This wine may be best to cellar, allowing its full complexity to emerge.



TECHNICAL DATA

APPELLATION | CALISTOGA, NAPA VALLEY
VARIETAL | 100% CABERNET SAUVIGNON
VINEYARD SOURCE | LANZ VINEYARD
CLONES | 169, 191, 337
AGING | 20 MONTHS
COOPERS | REYMOND, BARON
ALCOHOL | 14.5%
BOTTLING DATE | JUNE 2019
PRODUCTION | 21 BARRELS
WINEMAKER | THOMAS RIVERS BROWN



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