



2016 Stephanie Cabernet Sauvignon



Vineyards

The Hestan Vineyard has 110 planted acres of low yielding Bordeaux varieties and is located on the Napa Valley's remote Eastern Slopes. The property was a former cattle ranch and was purchased by Stanley and Helen Cheng in 1996. The soils are well drained and the microclimate in this area is warmer than the valley floor, with an average diurnal of 30 degrees each growing season. Both the vineyard and the gardens are sustainable farmed and 100% solar powered.

Growing Season

The near-perfect 2016 growing season started early, saw ideal weather conditions throughout and was defined by good set during the Spring and warm even temperatures through the summer. The estate vineyard is a slightly warmer site than much of Napa Valley so our picking dates are generally in mid-September, a major benefit this year as we avoided the October rains which followed several weeks after the 2016 harvest.

Vinification

Stephanie Cabernet begins with a night harvest in half ton boxes which ensures that cleaner fruit is delivered faster to the winery for crushing. The fruit is optically sorted, then goes through a 3–4-day cold soak. Prior to pressing, the fruit is de-stemmed and inoculation occurs. During fermentation, pump overs and pump downs are performed before the alcohol develops. Aging is done for 26-28 months in tight grain barrels. The barrels have been both air-dried and exhibit a variety of toast levels. Prior to bottling, the wines goes through an oversized filtration and then spends 12 months in glass prior to release.

Tasting Notes

From the start the wine exhibits a great color and begins on the nose with notes of blackberry, black cherry and plum. There is also mocha and dark chocolate with sweet tobacco, finishing with brown spice notes. The palate has great structure, with a wonderfully full mid-palate. The wine is very elegant and features a long and concentrated finish. All in all, a great example of wine from a nearly perfect vintage.

Appellation: Napa Valley

Vineyard: Estate

Aging: 28 months

Winemaker: Jeff Gaffner

Bottling Dates: Feb 2, 2019

Maturation: 50% new French Oak

PH: 3.69

TA: 6.4 g/L

Alcohol: 14.5%

Production: 1142 cases

Blend: 78% Cabernet 10% Merlot, 6% Petite Verdot 5% Cab Franc 1% Malbec