

HESTAN VINEYARDS

Napa Valley ✦ Gordon Valley district

2018 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, a former cattle ranch, 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 sustainably farmed and solar powered.

Growing Season

In 2018, February saw abundant rains, followed by lots of filtered light in spring and early summer. Both bud break and flowering occurred a bit late, but under ideal weather conditions, creating plentiful and even fruit set. Summer brought generous sun during the day and cooler marine influences, virtually uninterrupted by major heat spikes. The relatively mild summer followed by extended fall sunshine and moderate heat created near-ideal conditions for winemakers to allow their fruit to accumulate flavor complexity with gradual increases in sugar levels. Volume was up 20-30% increase over average crop quantity.

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 destemmed, and inoculation occurs. During fermentation, pump overs and punch 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. Before bottling, the wines go through an oversized filtration and then spend 12 months in glass before release.

Tasting Notes

On the nose, the wine shows dark black fruit, plum, blackberry, and cassis. The palate exhibits black fruits, blueberry, cocoa, coffee and red cherry licorice. The wine has a soft finish with a nice hint of acidity and shows a deep brooding vanillin and cocoa as it finishes.



Appellation: Napa Valley

Vineyard: Estate

Aging: 27 months

Winemaker: Jeff Gaffner

Bottling Dates: June 22, 2022

Maturation: 50% new French Oak

PH: 3.60

TA: 6.3 g/L

Alcohol: 14.5%

Production: 1502 cases

SRP: \$65.00

Blend: 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Petit Verdot, 7% Malbec, 3% Cab Franc, 2% Merlot