

CARDINALE

2012

NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

“One of the quintessential American stories is the novel *Sometimes a Great Notion* by Ken Kesey. It is a book that challenges the reader to listen in the individual characters as they relate the stories that imbue their lives in the Oregonian timber country. Kesey’s masterpiece has different characters telling the story on the same page without the benefit of knowing who is speaking. The reader has to listen carefully during the first 50 or so pages to understand where each character fits and how the individual voice is identified.

Cardinale is a collection of individual voices that tell a story, in this case the characters are the appellations and the story is the vintage. The individuality of the vineyards is there to enrich the experience. In 2012, the number of characters increased as the vintage was such that the quality of the expression of each appellation soared to the level of Cardinale’s expectation. Blackberries, shale, hints of earth, currant, Asian spice and mountain minerality reside alongside a breadth of structural tannins and weight from the concentration of fruit. Like Kesey’s novel the 2012 transports you by way of the characters/appellations to a time and a place that we will celebrate for years to come.”

- CHRISTOPHER CARPENTER, WINEMAKER

WINE STATISTICS

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| APPELLATION: | 100% Napa Valley |
| COMPOSITION: | 84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot |
| BARREL AGING: | 20 months in 93% new French oak |
| ALCOHOL: | 14.5% |
| FINISHING: | Egg White Fined and Unfiltered |

| | VEEDER PEAK | KEYES | LA JOTA | CLOS DU VAL | SPRING MOUNTAIN | VAN Z | YOUNTVILLE | ANDREW GEOFFREY |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| APPELLATION | Mount Veeder | Howell Mountain | Howell Mountain | Stags Leap | Spring Mountain | St. Helena | Yountville | Diamond Mountain |
| ELEVATION | 1,400 to 1,600 feet | 1,700 feet | 1,800 feet | 65 to 85 feet | 1,800 feet | 150 feet | 100 feet | 1,850 feet |
| SOILS | gravelly loam, black soils | white & red volcanic rocky loam | rhyolitic tuff, iron clay, volcanic rock | haire loam, bale clay loam | volcanic loam | gravelly loam | gravelly silt loams & alluvial, sedimentary | volcanic loam |
| VARIETALS | Cabernet Sauvignon | Merlot & Cabernet Sauvignon | Cabernet Sauvignon | Cabernet Sauvignon | Cabernet Sauvignon | Cabernet Sauvignon | Cabernet Sauvignon | Cabernet Sauvignon |
| % CONTRIBUTIONS | 37% | 16% | 12% | 11% | 7% | 7% | 5% | 5% |
| CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BLEND | blue fruit, length, backbone | dark fruit, herb, weight | dark fruit, herb, weight | sweet red, middle, fine tannin | fine tannins, floral, red fruit | middle, red/dark, lush | ripe strawberry, cassis, fine tannins | dark cherry, broad tannin |

98 POINTS

The 2012's final blend was 84% Cabernet Sauvignon and 16% Merlot with 94% new French oak used. Terroirists undoubtedly lament the fact that nine different vineyards and seven different appellations were utilized, but the resulting wine is prodigious. A dense purple color is accompanied by notes of graphite, blackberries, blackcurrants, roasted coffee, vanillin, baking spices and forest floor. With enormous complexity and richness as well as full-bodied power and voluptuousness, it is a wine of exceptional purity, intensity, and well-integrated acidity, alcohol, tannin and wood. This seamless, majestic Napa Cabernet Sauvignon-dominated 2012 should drink well for two decades. - ROBERT PARKER, JR., *The Wine Advocate*, October 2014

EVERY NOTE INSPIRED.

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