



1999 VINTAGE

PHILOSOPHY

Cardinale is a proprietary red wine made from esteemed vineyard sites along the Mayacamas Mountains that divide Napa Valley and Sonoma County as well as the Vaca Mountains that frame the eastern side of the Napa Valley.

Our 1999 vintage is comprised of four mountain vineyards possessing stand-alone excellence, and is the first Cardinale made entirely from mountain fruit. Since the 1995 vintage, our estate mountain vineyards on Howell Mountain and Mount Veeder have represented the core of the wine, contributing extraordinary richness and depth to the blend. In 1999 the addition of fruit from Peter Michael's Les Pavots Vineyard, situated along the ridges above Knights Valley, provides the lushness and vibrance usually found in Napa's valley floor vineyards. The density and opulence of fruit from Les Pavots combines with the rich flavors from our three estate mountain vineyards creating a blend offering elegance and power.

"Classic Cabernet Sauvignon flavors and bountiful aromas of ripe blackberry, dark chocolate, tobacco and slight rosemary deliver through to the palate. This is a structurally dense wine with very approachable entry tannins. The flavors carry over to focused tannins on a lengthy finish providing a wonderful combination of power and sophistication.

Drink now for power, with ability to hold for 10-15 years."

CHRISTOPHER CARPENTER,
Cardinale Winemaker

CARDINALE VINEYARDS

Each vineyard block is selected for the distinct footprint of individual flavor components. These unique flavor profiles are layered in a blend, creating a singular expression that captures each vineyard's definable attributes.

Howell Mountain (52 percent)

The grapes from our Howell Mountain vineyard are planted at a 1,700-foot elevation with a western facing exposure on the Vaca Mountains. Always the last to ripen, this seventy acre vineyard can expect frost as late as June. The cold climate vineyard yields rich flavors of distinct blue fruit, ripe raspberry and complex mineral and earth notes.

Mount Veeder (6 percent)

Planted at an elevation of 1,500 feet in the southern part of the Mayacamas Mountain range, this pinnacle estate vineyard contributes power and dark fruit flavors to the final blend. The Cabernet Sauvignon grows on a sloping hillock on the eastern aspect of the Mayacamas. The steep grade lends a rocky loam soil profile with excellent water drainage. Cold climate conditions and high elevation produce minimal amounts of fruit with bold black fruit extraction and an austere, elegant structure.

Alexander Valley (30 percent)

Two small blocks from our ranch situated above the Alexander Valley contribute both Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The clay and sandy loam soils contain a number of outcroppings and steep hillsides. This vineyard imparts soft red berry flavors, floral aromatics and greatly contributes to the wine's opaque purple color.

Knights Valley (12 percent)

Peter Michael's Les Pavots Vineyard rests on the steep slopes below Mount St. Helena in Knights Valley. This southern exposure vineyard rests at 1,000 feet above sea level with rugged rock and red volcanic ash soil. The warm climate and rocky soils add supple, lush plum fruit and wonderful opulence that rounds out the middle palate.

WINE STATISTICS

APPELLATION

58% NAPA COUNTY
42% SONOMA COUNTY

COMPOSITION

75% CABERNET SAUVIGNON
25% MERLOT
ALCOHOL: 14.0%
PH: 3.60 T.A.: .62 G/100ML

BARREL AGING

20 MONTHS, 100% NEW, FINE-GRAINED
CENTER-OF-FRANCE OAK
CHÂTEAU BARRELS

FINISHING

LIGHTLY FINED AND UNFILTERED

BOTTLING

AUGUST, 2001

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