

# Cakebread Cellars



## **2010 Cabernet Sauvignon Benchland Select, Napa Valley**

### **Vineyards**

Our Benchland Select Cabernet Sauvignon is crafted from two exceptional vineyards in Napa Valley's gently sloping western benchlands, including Jack Cakebread's Hill Ranch in the heart of the famed Rutherford appellation not far from the winery. These sites enjoy ideal eastern exposures, well-drained soils and mild afternoon temperatures, resulting in uniform fruit ripening and wines that are simultaneously opulent and elegant.

### **Vintage 2010**

2010 was a notably cool growing season in California. The year began with substantial rainfall, which pushed back bud break, flowering and grape set by several weeks. After an unusually cool summer, heat spikes in late August kick-started full ripening. Cooler temperatures returned in early September, extending the season and allowing us to harvest our Benchland Cabernet grapes at full maturity.

### **Winemaking**

In order to maximize color extraction, tannin structure and vineyard expression, we use a mixture of small and larger tanks to ferment the components of our Benchland Select Cabernet Sauvignon. Our winemaker carefully tailors tank sizes, yeast strains, fermentation temperatures and maceration techniques to the attributes of each lot of grapes, which vary by location, ripeness level and clonal type. Such specialized fermentations, combined with lot-specific barrel aging regimens, ensure that the finest attributes of each vineyard are reflected in the final blend. Our 2010 Benchland Select spent a total of 19 months aging in French oak barrels, 41% new, prior to bottling in April, 2012.

### **Tasting Notes**

Our 2010 Benchland Select boasts a wonderfully fragrant, captivating nose of dark cherry, fig, boysenberry and blackberry enriched by scents of loam, milk chocolate and brown spices. Sumptuous and mouthfilling on the palate with supple tannins and deeply concentrated black cherry, blackberry, boysenberry and plum flavors, this opulent Napa Valley Cabernet culminates in a long, lush finish full of savory chocolate and toasted oak tones. Delicious now, it will develop even greater allure with another 6-8 years of bottle aging.

**Grape variety:** 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

**Vineyards:** 100% Napa Valley (90% Oakville, 10% Rutherford)

**Harvest dates:** October 13 – October 18, 2010

**Fermentation:** 100% stainless steel

**Barrel aging:** 19 months in French oak, 41% new

**Alcohol:** 14.5%

**Total acidity:** 0.67 g/100 ml

**pH:** 3.56

**Bottled:** April, 2012

**Winemaker:** Julianne Laks

