

Cakebread Cellars



2011 Benchland Select Cabernet Sauvignon 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 2011

2011 was a challenging vintage. The year began with a wet winter and spring, followed by atypically cool summer weather and several October rainstorms. Not surprisingly, our Napa Valley grapes ripened slowly, resulting in a prolonged harvest. To address the situation, we thinned fruit from our vines to ensure full ripening of the remaining clusters and sorted meticulously through the grapes at the winery so that only the best berries were sent to the crusher. This helped achieved our goal of making a characteristically layered and opulent Benchland Select Cabernet Sauvignon.

Winemaking

In order to maximize color extraction, tannin structure and vineyard expression, we use a mix of small and larger tanks to ferment the components of our Benchland Select Cabernet Sauvignon. Our winemaker, Julianne Laks, 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 2011 Benchland Select spent a total of 19 months aging in French oak barrels, 45% new, prior to bottling in July, 2013.

Tasting Notes

Lavish dark cherry, boysenberry, blackberry and blackcurrant aromas, complemented by intriguing loam, mocha and toasty oak scents, introduce our 2011 Benchland Select Cabernet Sauvignon. Smooth and round on the palate, with wonderfully soft tannins, its plush boysenberry, blackberry, black fig and ripe cherry flavors take on savory earth, chocolate, mineral and toasted oak tones in the wine's long, fruitful finish.

Grape variety: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

Vineyards: 100% Napa Valley

Harvest dates: October 19-26, 2011

Fermentation: 100% stainless steel

Barrel aging: 19 months in French oak, 45% new

Alcohol: 13.6%

Total acidity: 0.63g/100 ml

pH: 3.64

Bottled: July, 2013

Winemaker: Julianne Laks