

Cakebread Cellars



2012 Benchland Select Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley

Vineyards

The grapes for our Benchland Select Cabernet Sauvignon come from two outstanding vineyards in Napa Valley's gently sloping western benchlands, with the majority from winery founder Jack Cakebread's Hill Ranch in the heart of the famed Rutherford appellation, home to our winery. These sites enjoy ideal eastern exposures, well-drained alluvial soils and mild summer afternoons, resulting in uniform fruit ripening and cabernets that are both opulent and elegant.

Vintage 2012

2012 was a spectacular growing season in Napa Valley, with a warm, dry spring fostering early budbreak and trouble-free flowering and grape set. Consistently mild summer weather free of rain or unwelcome heat spikes allowed us to harvest our cabernet grapes at peak maturity with a perfect balance of deeply concentrated fruit flavors, bright acidity and ripe, supple tannins.

Winemaking

We ferment the individual lots of this 100% Cabernet Sauvignon – representing six separate vineyard blocks and four different cabernet clones – in small stainless steel tanks to maximize color extraction, tannin structure and vineyard expression. Tank sizes, yeast strains, fermentation temperatures and maceration techniques are tailored to the character of each lot. Such specialized fermentations, combined with lot-specific barrel aging regimens, ensure the finest attributes of each vineyard are reflected in the final blend. Our 2012 Benchland Select spent 21 months aging in French oak barrels, 52% new, prior to bottling in July, 2014.

Tasting Notes

Classic varietal aromas of pure, ripe boysenberry and blackberry fruit, coupled with enticing loam and mocha scents, introduce our thoroughly delicious, superbly balanced, 2012 Benchland Select Cabernet Sauvignon. Wonderfully dense, rich and supple on the palate, with deeply concentrated black cherry, blackberry and black fig flavors, it boasts round, seamlessly integrated tannins and an extremely long, lush finish. Magnificent now, this singular vintage of Benchland Select will grow even more sumptuous over the next 6 to 8 years.

Grape variety: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

Vineyards: 100% Napa Valley

Harvest dates: October 13-18, 2012

Fermentation: 100% stainless steel

Barrel aging: 21 months in French oak, 52% new

Alcohol: 14.5%

Total acidity: 0.59g/100 ml

pH: 3.7

Bottled: July 20, 2014

Winemaker: Julianne Laks