

Cakebread Cellars



2014 Benchland Select Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley

Vineyards

This wine is a special blend of cabernet sauvignon grapes from two outstanding vineyards in the acclaimed, gently sloping western benchlands of Rutherford and Oakville in the heart of Napa Valley. With an ideal eastern exposure, these vineyards benefit from the cool afternoon shade provided by the Mayacamas Mountains, allowing the grapes to mature at a slow, even pace. The benchlands' gravelly loam soils afford excellent drainage, enabling growers to precisely calibrate the amount of water required to nourish the vines. Coupled with mild summer afternoons, these conditions result in uniform fruit ripening and cabernet sauvignons displaying the opulent fruit, elegant mouthfeel and fine structure characteristic of these great sites.

Vintage 2014

2014 was another in a series of excellent vintages in northern California. After a rainy February, which rejuvenated the vines, a warm, dry spring led to early bud-break, flowering and grape set. Summer was consistently mild with few heat spikes, allowing our cabernet sauvignon grapes to ripen slowly and evenly while developing impressively concentrated flavors.

Winemaking

We harvested and fermented our 2014 Benchland Select grapes from eight separate vineyard blocks containing four superior cabernet sauvignon clones. The individual lots fermented in small stainless steel tanks to maximize color, flavor and tannin extraction. Tank sizes, yeast strains, fermentation temperatures, maceration techniques and barrel aging regimens were specifically tailored to the character of each lot, ensuring that the finest attributes of each vineyard block were reflected in the final blend. Our 2014 Benchland Select spent 21 months aging in French oak barrels, 64% new, prior to bottling.

Tasting Notes

Enticing boysenberry, blackberry, blackcurrant and dark cherry fruit aromas, coupled with scents of loam, chocolate and sweet, toasty oak, introduce the lush, mouth-filling flavors of this sumptuous cabernet sauvignon. Boasting deep and luxurious blackberry, boysenberry, blackcurrant and dark cherry fruit, this rich, yet elegant red is framed by supple, polished tannins and culminates in an impressively long finish brimming with seductive blackberry, chocolate and wood spice tones. Thoroughly delicious now, our 2014 Benchland Select will handsomely reward another 7-10 years of bottle age.

Grape variety: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Vineyards: 100% Napa Valley
Harvest dates: October 2nd – 16th, 2014
Fermentation: 100% stainless steel
Barrel aging: 21 months in French oak, 64% new

Alcohol: 15.1%
Total acidity: 0.64 g/100 ml
pH: 3.61
Bottled: July 20th, 2016
Winemaker: Julianne Laks