

Cakebread Cellars



2015 Benchland Select Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley

Vineyards

Our 2015 Benchland Select Cabernet Sauvignon is a blend of grapes from two superior vineyards in the gently sloping western benchlands of Napa Valley's famed Oakville and Rutherford appellations. Boasting ideal eastern exposures, these vineyards benefit from 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 grape ripening and cabernet sauvignons displaying opulent fruit, an elegant mouthfeel and fine structure.

Vintage 2015

After abundant harvests from 2012 through 2014, the 2015 growing season experienced more weather extremes that led to a small, yet outstanding, vintage. 2015 was our earliest harvest ever in the 40+ year of Cakebread Cellars history. A warm, dry winter fostered early bud-break, though a cold spell during fruit set limited cluster sizes. A warm summer and late-season heat spikes ensured beautiful ripening.

Winemaking

After harvesting our Benchland Select grapes from multiple vineyard blocks containing five superior cabernet sauvignon clones, we gently destemmed the clusters and fermented each lot of fruit in small, stainless steel tanks designed to maximize color, flavor and tannin extraction. Yeast strains, fermentation temperatures, maceration techniques and barrel aging regimens were specifically tailored to the character of each lot to capture the finest attributes of each vineyard block in the final blend. Our 2015 Benchland Select spent 22 months aging in French oak barrels, 63% new, prior to bottling in July, 2017.

Tasting Notes

A big, ripe nose of fresh boysenberry, blackberry and dark cherry fruit, complemented by seductive roasted earth and dark chocolate scents, introduces lush, deeply concentrated flavors of boysenberry, blackberry, dark cherry and cassis framed by firm, but supple tannins. The wine's dramatically long, savory finish showcases rich, dark fruit with notes of chocolate, spice and toasted oak. Thoroughly delicious now, this complex, opulent, Napa Valley cabernet sauvignon will handsomely reward another 7-10 years' aging.

Grape variety: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Vineyards: 100% Napa Valley
Harvest dates: September 15th – 19th, 2015
Fermentation: 100% stainless steel
Barrel aging: 22 months in French oak, 63% new

Alcohol: 15.5%
Total acidity: 0.64 g/100 ml
pH: 3.59
Bottled: July 13th, 2017
Winemaker: Julianne Laks