

# Cakebread Cellars



## 2015 Vaca Red Blend Napa Valley

Vaca Red is a blend of grapes from our three Napa Valley hillside estates spread along the western slopes of the Vaca Mountain Range, which forms the eastern boundary of Napa Valley: Suscol Springs Vineyard (58%), Doggwood Vineyard (37%) and Dancing Bear Ranch (5%). These high-elevation sites sit on steep, angled slopes that provide ideal sun exposures. All boast well-drained, rocky, volcanic soils that yield grapes with intense, deeply concentrated flavors. The 2015 Vaca Red is a blend of 91% cabernet sauvignon, 6% cabernet franc and 3% merlot.

### Vineyards

Suscol Springs Vineyard, east of the town of Napa, is the coolest of our three Vaca Range estates. Its vines are planted amidst rocky outcrops overlooking the Napa Valley floor. Doggwood Vineyard is located further north above Conn Dam near Napa's eastern ridgeline in a warm, bowl-like valley boasting multiple sun exposures. Dancing Bear, the northernmost site, is located on Howell Mountain at elevations between 1,100 to 1,900 feet and enjoys a near 360-degree exposure, offering a diverse range of growing conditions.

### Vintage 2015

After abundant harvests from 2012 through 2014, the 2015 growing season experienced more weather extremities 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

We harvest and ferment each of our Vaca Range vineyard lots separately. Each lot is cold-soaked prior to fermentation to enhance color, flavor and tannin extraction, then tank-fermented and barrel-aged prior to blending. Tank size, yeast strain, fermentation temperature and barrel type are precisely tailored to the fruit character of each lot. The 2015 Vaca Red spent 22 months aging in French oak barrels, 61% new, prior to bottling in July, 2017.

### Tasting Notes

Lovely ripe fruit aromas of wild cherry, boysenberry and cassis, enriched by complex loam, dark chocolate and toasted oak scents, prefigure the marvelously round, mouth-filling palate of this wonderfully deep, concentrated red blend. Intense and potent dark cherry, blackberry, boysenberry and blackcurrant flavors are joined in the very long, succulent finish by spice, sweet oak and mineral tones. Buoyed by big, but very supple tannins, this luscious red is immensely appealing now, but it will develop even greater allure with another 8-10 years' aging.

**Composition:** 91% cabernet sauvignon, 6% cabernet franc,  
3% merlot

**Alcohol:** 15.4

**Vineyards:** Napa Valley: 58% Suscol Springs, 37% Doggwood,  
5% Dancing Bear Ranch

**Total acidity:** 0.65

**Harvest dates:** September 11<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**pH:** 3.65

**Fermentation:** 100% in stainless steel tanks

**Bottled:** July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Barrel aging:** 22 months in French oak barrels, 61% new

**Winemaker:** Julianne Laks