

# Cakebread Cellars



## 2017 Rubaiyat North Coast

A long-time favorite of our wine club members, Rubaiyat takes its name from the famous lines penned by 12th-century Persian poet Omar Khayyám: “A Book of Verses underneath the Bough, A Jug of Wine, a Loaf of Bread, and Thou Beside me singing in the Wilderness.” The blend of this deeply flavorful, fruit-forward red wine changes according to the conditions of each vintage and our winemaker’s blending intuition.

### Vineyards

Our 2017 Rubaiyat is a blend of 86% pinot noir, 9% syrah and 5% grenache. We harvested the pinot noir from our Annahala and Apple Barn Vineyards in Mendocino County, where warm sun and chilly nights create wines of intensity and balance. These vineyards lie just a few miles from one another; Annahala sits closer to the ocean and gives us a lighter style pinot noir, while the gravelly soils and slightly warmer conditions of Apple Barn deliver a more robust expression of the varietal. The syrah and grenache come from our cool-climate Suscol Springs Vineyard in southeastern Napa Valley, where rocky hillsides develop syrah with savory notes and hints of boysenberry, and grenache with firm tannins and good acidity.

### Vintage 2017

After several years of drought, the winter of 2017 brought substantial rainfall to both Napa and Anderson valleys. Cool, early spring weather gave us a long, steady flowering period, which in turn resulted in an optimal “berry set”—when each tiny flower turns into a young grape. Moderate summer temperatures ensured slow, even ripening, and harvest delivered small clusters with intense varietal flavor and an ideal balance of sugars and acidity.

### Winemaking

Each year, our winemaker selects multiple small lots of red wine to create a robust, fruity, and balanced red blend. Every vineyard lot is hand-harvested at night to preserve fruit purity, then fermented in small, open-top, stainless steel tanks. Fermenting wine forms a cap of skins, and we punch this cap down by hand to gently reintroduce the skins to the wine and extract optimal color and flavor. The 2017 Rubaiyat aged for 15 months in French oak barrels (43% new); the final wine was blended shortly before bottling to capture fruit-forward aromas, juicy flavors, and supple tannins.

### Tasting Notes

Aromas of ripe black cherry and blackberry, with hints of violet, lead into a palate of lush blackberry and black cherry flavors balanced by bright acidity. Supple tannins support the deep fruit characters, and a refreshing minerality lingers with black cherry notes over the finish. Try this wine with spare ribs, lamb burgers, or grilled portabello mushrooms.

**Blend:** 86% pinot noir, 9% syrah, 5% grenache  
**Vineyards:** Napa Valley and Anderson Valley  
**Harvest dates:** August 28 -- September 15, 2017  
**Fermentation:** small open-top tanks  
**Barrel aging:** 15 months in French oak barrels, 43% new

**Alcohol:** 14.4%  
**Total acidity:** 0.64 g/100ml  
**pH:** 3.55  
**Bottled:** January 2019  
**Winemaker:** Stephanie Jacobs