

Cakebread Cellars



2016 Syrah Suscol Springs Vineyard, Napa Valley

Vineyards

The fruit for this estate-grown syrah comes exclusively from our Suscol Springs Vineyard in southeastern Napa Valley, a hilly, cool and windy site boasting rocky, well-drained soils and ideal southern and western exposures. We have five top-flight clones of the noble syrah variety planted at Suscol Springs, all originating in France's northern Rhône Valley, the grape's ancestral home. This clonal variation, coupled with the vineyard's singular attributes, allows us to craft a rich, complex and beautifully balanced syrah that matures beautifully in bottle.

Vintage 2016

The near-perfect 2016 growing season got off to an early start, with consistently mild spring and early summer weather producing optimal vine activity. A lengthy stretch of warm days at the end of the growing season provided excellent late-ripening conditions. At harvest, our estate syrah grapes offered wonderfully expressive, concentrated fruit flavors bolstered by supple tannins.

Winemaking

Our 2016 Syrah is a blend of our five superior clones of the variety. Each clonal lot was harvested and fermented separately. Prior to fermentation, we cold soaked the lots for four to six days to maximize color extraction and soften tannins. During fermentation in small, open-top fermenters, we daily punched down the cap of skins at the top of the fermenting tanks to thoroughly macerate the skins and juice for optimal color and flavor while closely monitoring tannin levels. Once fermentation completed, we drained the free-run juice by gravity and transferred the wines to French oak barrels, 51% new, where they aged before blending. The wine spent a total of 15 months in French oak prior to bottling in January 2018.

Tasting Notes

A deep, opaque, purplish color matches fragrant aromas of ripe raspberry, blackcurrant and dark cherry fruit, coupled with pleasing notes of roasted earth, violets and vanilla. Full-bodied, lush and very concentrated on the palate, the wine delivers warm, intense and superbly balanced blackberry, currant and dark chocolate flavors that culminate in a long, vibrant finish featuring savory black pepper spice and black cherry tones. Impressive now, this youthful syrah will age gracefully in bottle for another 5-7 years.

Grape varieties: 98.5% syrah, 1.5% grenache

Vineyards: 100% Napa Valley, Suscol Springs Vineyard

Harvest dates: September 27th – October 7th, 2016

Fermentation: small open-top tanks

Barrel aging: 15 months in 51% new French oak

Alcohol: 14.7%

Total acidity: 0.68 g/100 ml

pH: 3.54

Bottled: January, 2018

Winemaker: Julianne Laks