



WINEGROWING INFORMATION

2016 in Napa Valley was viewed by growers and vintners alike as a 'vintage of exceptional quality'. Late winter and early spring rains brought welcome relief from the long-running drought, filling the soils with moisture which, coupled with a lack of frost and warm spring temperatures, allowed an early budbreak and rapid development of the grapevine canopies. The weather at bloom was beautifully consistent, leading to a good set of small berries that resulted in moderate crop levels. The gorgeous summer months were relatively cool with very few heat spikes, and with veraison finishing in late July, the grapes had ample time to develop full flavors while retaining excellent acidity and freshness. Our red grape harvest began on September 15th with Cabernet Franc and finished on October 8th with Cabernet Sauvignon. All the grapes were hand-harvested in the cool morning hours and brought to the winery for crush into stainless steel tanks for fermentation. The wine was aged for 22 months in new and used French oak barrels and was bottled in July 2018.

TASTING NOTES

Reflecting the outstanding vintage, the captivating nose of this wine shows dark and brooding aromas of cassis, plum and blackberry, touched by exotic notes of lavender, anise, pencil lead and leather. On the palate, rich flavors of ripe black fruits are wrapped around a firm structure of fine-grained tannins, minerality and beautiful freshness that carry on into the long, satisfying finish. Per winemakers Françoise Peschon and Nigel Kinsman: *"The consistency of an exceptional vintage is expressed in the purity, length and fineness of this wine – it is deep and powerful, yet perfectly integrated, seamless from approach to finish, full of plush flavor from ripe fruit, ending with silky tannins and graphite that linger on the palate."*