

PETER FRANUS **2014 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon**

Vineyards

Taplin Road – St. Helena
Howell Mountain
Stewart—Carneros

Composition

90% Cabernet Sauvignon
10% Merlot

Fermentation

7 days average, up to 82°

Maceration

15 days average

Oak aging

19 months
100% French Oak
60% new

TA: 0.56 g/100 ml

pH: 3.80

Alc.: 14.5%

RS: 0.27 g/L

I produced my first Cabernet Sauvignon in 1981 as winemaker for Mount Veeder Winery, which at the time was one of the cutting-edge wineries elevating Cabernet production to a new level. Needless to say, Cabernet is now king in Napa Valley, due largely to the passionate innovators from decades past. In the years that followed, we had the luxury to observe and work with Cabernet from numerous regions. In 2011 we connected with two outstanding vineyards—both certified organic—that we believed had amazing potential to create a wine in our signature style.

Howell Mountain needs little introduction. Located in the northeast corner of Napa Valley, the resulting red wines from the region are typically powerful, muscular, and intense. Although many choose to bottle 100% Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon on its own, I think it best serves as the backbone of a wine and needs to be finessed a bit. Let me introduce Taplin Road, southeast of St. Helena, just off the Silverado Trail.

Joseph Phelps and Heitz are legends in Napa Valley. They are on Taplin Road. Nestled between them is my eastern hillside vineyard—clone 341—offering grapes with wonderful charm, elegance, and volume, the perfect foil to Howell Mountain.

We were rewarded with another outstanding vintage in 2014—in fact I just checked my notes and my comment on the final day of harvest, “sensational!” Sunshine and a warm dry spring gave way to mild and ideal growing conditions throughout the summer. An uneventful growing season without extremes is always welcome. Harvest began early and finished early, avoiding the potentially cool and rainy autumn conditions.

Dark ruby in color, our 2014 Cabernet offers a cascade of forward and inviting aromas of dried herb, classic cassis, sweet vanilla, floral notes and even a hint of cardamom. Quite approachable, it dances on the palate with ripe moderate tannins and good acidity. The plum/cherry flavors remain refreshing, vibrant, and focused, never weighty. It is a wonderful counterpart to the more brooding 2013 vintage, and a testament to our belief that wine should be delicious!

Graceful and full of pleasure, we present to you our 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon.

SEE REVIEWS ON NEXT PAGE

Peter Franus Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2014

Rated 92, jamesuckling.com

"Aromas of blackberries and tar with hints of walnuts follow through to a medium to full body, soft and velvety tannins and a savory finish. Delicious. Drink now."

Rated 91, Antonio Galloni, December 2016

"The 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon offers notable energy to balance its dark fruit. Savory herbs, tobacco, plum and red cherry all develop nicely with air. The 2014 is not a huge wine, but it is deceptive in its mid-weight structure, as has terrific energy as well as nuance. Drink it over the next handful of years."

Rated 90, James Laube, Wine Spectator, November 15, 2017

"Flavours of roasted plum and blackberry are at the core of this juicy, supple effort, which shows dusty, savory notes amid the ample dark fruit. Best from 2019 through 2029."