



# PINE RIDGE

## VINEYARDS

### 2021 CIRCLE HILL CABERNET SAUVIGNON



CIRCLE HILL ESTATE VINEYARD SITUATED IN THE NORTHWEST SECTION OF THE STAGS LEAP DISTRICT IS IDENTIFIED BY THE HILL ENCIRCLED WITH VINES THAT CROWNS THE PROPERTY. IT IS THIS GENTLY SLOPING BLOCK THAT TYPICALLY FORMS THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR ICON WINE, FORTIS. LOCATED IN A MINIATURE “VALLEY WITHIN THE VALLEY” THIS SITE TYPIFIES THE FRUIT EXPRESSION THAT THE STAGS LEAP DISTRICT IS SO WELL KNOWN FOR, WHERE SLIGHTLY COOLER PORTIONS OF THE VINEYARD PROVIDE EXUBERANT FRESH FRUIT CHARACTER AND WARMER SECTIONS OF THE VINEYARD PROVIDE RICHNESS, DEPTH AND SILKY SMOOTH, YET CONCENTRATED TANNINS.

#### VINTAGE

Our estate vineyard was harvested between September 9th and 24th to maximize the specific ripeness attributes we were aiming for at this vineyard designate site.

The 2021 growing season was a prime example of why Napa Valley is such a great place to grow grapes. The winter heading into the growing season was colder than average with a drier than average spring. There were four total heat events over the growing season with the May and September heat events being outside the typical range for that time of year. The summer growing conditions were exceptionally good, making for ideal berry development. Both bloom and veraison, which typically last two to three weeks each, were each over in about a week! The start of harvest was early due to September being very warm. The yields for the year were below average, but from a quality standpoint, it was a vintage year!

#### VITICULTURE & WINEMAKING

The grapes were hand-harvested at night - when temperatures often dip to 50°F - to capture vibrant acidity and fruit expression in the wine. We first cold-soaked the must (crushed grapes) for gentle extraction and then fermented in stainless steel, concrete, and oak barrel fermenters at 92°F. Rigorous pump-overs, increasing during the peak of the fermentation, developed deep color, rich varietal character and fine tannins in the wine. The wine was aged in 75% new French oak barrels to meld the bright fruit expression with oak spice nuances over 26 months of barrel élevage. This wine was bottled unfinned and unfiltered to present the attributes of the vineyard in the purest form possible, from the dirt to the glass!

#### ANALYSIS

VARIETALS	ALC	pH	TA
98% Cabernet Sauvignon	15.5%	3.78	6.0 g/l
1% Petite Sirah & 1% Petit Verdot			

#### TASTING NOTES

In the glass, our 2021 Circle Hill Cabernet Sauvignon unveils a fusion of blackberry seed and sandalwood, enriched by cocoa powder, graphite, and dried herbs. The palate is embraced by a round mouthfeel, revealing deep cassis and vanilla cream, with a bright, lingering acidity that elevates its character. It possesses a broad-shouldered structure and a remarkable, enduring cocoa bean finish. With its harmonious balance of strength and elegance, this wine will age beautifully for 20 years, promising to evolve and captivate with each passing year. Zabuton Steak with cabernet sauvignon balsamic jus, atop celeriac soubise, with wilted winter greens would be an ideal pairing for this incredible wine.

