

SPOTTSWOODE

Harvest 2019

Spottswood Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

By Aron Weinkauf, Winemaker

THE 2019 VINTAGE began with a wet winter, which saturated the soils and set the stage for a robust growing season at our historic Spottswood Estate Vineyard in St. Helena. Spring brought additional rain in March, April, and May, with cool mid-spring weather pushing budbreak back to the second week of April, and bloom beginning on May 30. As is natural after a rainy winter and spring, both the vines and canopies were primed for growth. To keep the growth of the vines in check, we managed our cover crops to take up some of the additional moisture and chose not to cultivate them in order to limit overall vigor in the vineyard. We also aggressively pruned, suckering the vines for ideal airflow, doing multiple passes of shoot tipping, removing laterals on the vines, and dropping excess and unevenly ripening fruit throughout the season.

The temperate weather continued into early and mid-summer with no significant heat events. After the beginning of veraison on July 25, the weather began to warm, providing an ideal period for pre-harvest ripening. Even so, the 2019 growing season was relatively cool in terms of overall growing degree days, which resulted in grapes with lovely color and excellent physiological maturity at relatively modest sugar levels. We continued to actively manage canopy growth throughout the season to ensure that the vines focused their energies on ripening the grapes. We began harvesting our most youthful Cabernet Sauvignon blocks on September 20 and made our final picks on October 17. With harvest spread out over two months, we were able to pick each block exactly when we wished.

Throughout harvest we did additional fruit dropping to eliminate any unevenly ripened clusters, and we were equally exacting at the sorting table. With overall yields up by almost 20%, we increased our use of saignée in the winery to accentuate the depth and complexity of the grapes, and were very focused on our extraction techniques, including pump-overs and délestage. As a result, our 2019 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon harvest yielded lush and beautifully nuanced fruit with captivating aromatics, moderate alcohols, and tannins that were supple and refined.

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A Family Wine Estate



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