

SPOTTSWOODE

Harvest 2019

Lydenhurst Cabernet Sauvignon

By Aron Weinkauff, Winemaker

EVERY VINTAGE, the growing of the fruit for our Lydenhurst Cabernet Sauvignon is approached as a collaboration with a handful of acclaimed family-owned vineyards throughout the Napa Valley. Each site is selected to contribute something unique and special to the final wine. Throughout the Napa Valley, the 2019 vintage began with a wet winter and spring, which saturated the soils and set the stage for a robust growing season, both at our Spottswode Estate Vineyard and throughout the valley. To keep the vigor of the vines in check, we proactively worked with our growers to create balanced crop loads using a variety of methods, including mowing cover crops, pruning, suckering the vines for proper airflow, shoot tipping, removing laterals, and dropping excess and unevenly ripening fruit.

The temperate weather in Napa Valley continued into early and mid-summer, with no significant heat events. After the beginning of veraison in late July the weather warmed, providing an ideal period of pre-harvest ripening. As we strive to work with only organically farmed sites, we have incentivized our grower partners to transition to organic farming. Our first Lydenhurst fruit harvested in 2019 was Merlot and Malbec from the nearby Young Inglewood Vineyard in St. Helena, which is set to achieve organic certification by 2021. These grapes bring a unique perfumed character to the blend, along with soft, supple tannins. The next two vineyards to be harvested were our own Spottswode Estate and the neighboring half-acre Parry Vineyard. Our estate Cabernet Sauvignon provides the backbone of Lydenhurst with its depth, structure, and complexity, and Parry adds a hint of rustic old-world charm. Following our estate harvest, the next vineyard to be picked was Darms Lane on the western edge of Oak Knoll. This vineyard, which is transitioning to organic farming, is a cooler site and produced grapes with beautiful color, high natural acidity, and juicy layers of fruit. From there, harvest took us to the high-mountain slopes of the organically certified Edcora Vineyard on Atlas Peak, where the steepness of the vineyard and its well-drained soils naturally limited yields, resulting in excellent color, concentration,

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and depth. The last vineyard harvested was Knights Bridge in Knights Valley. At an elevation of almost 800 feet this is the steepest site we work with, and its western exposure allows us to push the boundaries a bit in terms of ripeness, producing a wine of excellent depth and density that adds textural richness to Lydenhurst.

Through thoughtful farming and meticulous attention to detail at the sorting table and in the winery, these vineyards allowed us to craft an elegantly lush and dynamic expression of Lydenhurst in 2019 that displays layers of complexity, generous fruit, and an elegantly balanced and approachable structural framework.

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