2017 Spottswoode Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

The 2017 growing season was one of extremes. The year began with a welcome wet winter after a five-year drought, only to be followed by hail in June and a very hot summer. Catastrophic wildfires broke out in early October, the day after we had finished picking our Estate fruit.

In spite of the weather extremes, we crafted an honest and truly exceptional expression of our site in 2017, and we attribute this to the resilience of our Estate Vineyard. This resilience is a function of our long-term responsible stewardship of the land, which we farm with the greatest sensitivity, intentionally building health into the entire system.

Great vineyard sites are rare, and part of defining them is their ability to ripen fruit that allows for a consistently extraordinary wine. Our 36 vintages of Spottswoode Cabernet are a testament to this. This is why, as Robert Parker wrote after tasting a full vertical of Spottswoode (vintages 1982–2014), “This tasting, which took place in August 2016, was a phenomenal look at what is truly a Napa first-growth estate.”

Winemaker Notes: Youthful energy and concentration take center stage for the 2017. Quintessential notes of brambly blue fruit and graphite complement warm oak spices and hints of plum, celery seed, and cocoa powder. A weighty and compelling core lead to a layered depth that will follow this wine through the long and dynamic life that it is destined for.

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**SOURCE OF GRAPES**
Spottswoode Estate Vineyard
Organically farmed since 1985

**APPELLATION**
St. Helena, Napa Valley

**OAK PROFILE**
Aged 20 months
French oak barrels (new 60%)

**BLENDING DETAIL**
Cabernet Sauvignon 89%
Cabernet Franc 7%
Petit Verdot 4%

**RELEASE DATE**
September 1, 2020