

# SPOTTSWOODE

Harvest 2021

## Spottswood Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

*By Aron Weinkauff, Winemaker*

WHILE THE 2021 growing season at our Spottswood Estate Vineyard in Napa Valley's St. Helena produced a beautiful wine with dynamic energy, pure, soaring flavors and a graceful age-worthy structure, the vintage was not without its challenges. Its defining factor was the lack of precipitation. After much-needed rainfall in November and December of 2020, the winter and spring of 2021 were extremely dry. Overall, we received just 12 to 13 inches of rain throughout the entire growing season. To increase soil fertility, we proactively irrigated our vineyards early, added organic fertilizers, diligently managed soil micronutrients, and pruned our vines thoughtfully to ensure that they were not overburdened.

After a warm, dry January and February, and a cool March, budbreak commenced in the vineyard on April 1. The weather soon warmed, which resulted in quite a short period between budbreak and bloom, which started on May 6. While the weather for the rest of the season was fairly warm, we had a few significant heat spells, with most lasting no more than two or three days. During this period, we closely monitored vine growth, and tilled alternate rows in the vineyard in order to reduce competition for soil nutrients.

As the season progressed, we recognized that with smaller clusters and canopies and fewer shoots, the overall crop would be smaller. To protect this smaller crop from the sun, we maintained the canopy, and we followed that up by hanging shade cloth relatively early in the season. Our key areas of focus were targeted irrigation and organic soil nutrient amendments. After the beginning of veraison on July 23, we carefully assessed the ripeness of the vineyard's small, thick-skinned berries in the run-up to harvest. While the weather remained warm, our hand was never forced by heat, and we harvested our estate fruit in eight separate picks. The majority of the grapes arrived in the winery between September 14 and September 24, and harvest finished quite early on September 29. The eight separate picks ensured that we had a lovely array of lots for blending, with earlier picks highlighting energy, vibrancy, and more delicate aromas, and later picks providing lots with alluring textures, silky tannins, and more robust flavor profiles.

— More —

A Family Wine Estate

SW

Spottswood Estate Vineyard & Winery • St. Helena CA • 707/963-0134 • [spottswoodestate.com](http://spottswoodestate.com)



While the quality of the 2021 vintage is exceptional, our yields were down 15% from the prior year, and with more modest sugar accumulation in the fruit, we had almost no lots above 24 degrees Brix, resulting in relatively low alcohol levels for the vintage. Overall, we were thrilled with how our organically and biodynamically farmed estate responded to the drought, and its ability to sustain itself in a healthy condition while producing a small crop of pristine fruit. In fact, because the quality was so high almost no sorting was required. In the winery, we applied thoughtful extraction techniques to maximize the depth of flavors, and the resulting 2021 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon captures the beauty of the vintage. Offering lovely varietal flavors, terroir-driven complexity, abundant energy, and an elegant structure, it is a remarkable wine that promises years of fascinating evolution.

– End –

A Family Wine Estate



Spottswoode Estate Vineyard & Winery • St. Helena CA • 707/963-0134 • [spottswoode.com](http://spottswoode.com)

