

# SPOTTSWOODE

Harvest 2021

## Lydenhurst Cabernet Sauvignon

*By Aron Weinkauff, Winemaker*

EACH 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. In these relationships, we strive to work with organically farmed sites, and we are incentivizing our grower partners to transition to organic farming. Throughout the 2021 growing season, the defining factor was California's historic drought conditions. Though we received some much-needed rainfall in November and December of 2020, the winter and spring of 2021 were extremely dry, and Napa Valley received just 12 to 13 inches of rain throughout the growing season. At our Spottswode Estate Vineyard, and working with our grower partners, we proactively irrigated our vineyards early, diligently managed soil micronutrients, and carefully pruned our vines to ensure that they were not overburdened.

After a warm, dry January and February, and a cool March, budbreak came early in most parts of Napa Valley. The weather soon warmed, which resulted in quite a short period between budbreak and bloom. While the weather for the rest of the season was fairly warm, we had only a few significant heat spells, most lasting no more than two or three days. As the season progressed, we recognized that with smaller clusters and canopies and fewer shoots, the overall crop in Napa Valley would be smaller. At Spottswode, to protect the smaller crop from the sun, we maintained the canopy to preserve shade on the grapes and employed shade cloth relatively early in the season. As harvest approached, conditions at the vineyards we work with to create Lydenhurst varied significantly based on their microclimates and the availability of water for irrigation.

Our Spottswode Estate Vineyard was the first to be harvested, where we achieved beautiful, vibrant flavors at relatively low Brix from early to mid September. On September 7, we picked our next significant portion of fruit, which included Malbec, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Cabernet Sauvignon from the organically farmed Young Inglewood Vineyard in St. Helena. These grapes – all of which were co-fermented – showed excellent concentration and depth. The next site picked was the half-acre Mowe (formerly Parry) Vineyard, which set an excellent, balanced crop and produced an exceptional lot with fascinating pyrazine

– More –

A Family Wine Estate



Spottswode Estate Vineyard & Winery • St. Helena CA • 707/963-0134 • spottswode.com



notes. On September 27 we picked Merlot and a small amount of Cabernet Sauvignon from the Popplewell Vineyard on Spring Mountain, which provided lush red fruit and concentration to the Lyndenhurst blend. Our 2021 harvest concluded with three final picks on September 29 at Darms Lane Vineyard in Oak Knoll, September 30 at the organically certified Edcora Vineyard on Atlas Peak, and on September 30 at the organically farmed Rahn Estate Vineyard on Howell Mountain. Because Darms Lane manages soil fertility well, and because it was a cooler vintage in Oak Knoll, this fruit was some of our best of the year, with lovely color, aromatics, and energy. The high-elevation, low-yielding Edcora Vineyard, where we source Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, also excelled in 2021, producing grapes with robust mountain tannins and excellent intensity, which helped to serve as the backbone for the 2021 Lyndenhurst. Grown on a sheltered, northeast facing slope on Howell Mountain, Rahn Vineyard's grapes produced great density and tannin structure.

Collectively, the 2021 Lyndenhurst Cabernet Sauvignon is a wine that overdelivers in every way. Though beautifully structured, its strength comes from its acidity and the clarity and precision of its fruit. Incorporating all five Bordeaux varietals, it possesses great balance and richness, while showing the cut and beauty of a traditional claret. Never heavy, but with ample power, length, complexity, and energy, it offers immediate pleasure, yet can also be aged.

– End –

A Family Wine Estate



Spottswode Estate Vineyard & Winery • St. Helena CA • 707/963-0134 • spottswode.com

