



JUDGE PALMER
2021 Cabernet Sauvignon
“Vintage Select,” Sonoma County

Tasting Notes: “Mint chocolate, crushed cherry and cassis scents dominate the nose of this aromatically expressive Cabernet. On the palate, this wine displays a range of black fruit flavors like plum, black cherry and blueberry, along with that telltale minty-ness of eucalyptus. The finish is grippy and structured, so lay this down and let it evolve for a few years.” – **90 points**, Tom Capo, *Wine Enthusiast*

Vineyards: The Vintage Select combines lots from all of our vineyards to give the truest expression of the character of each vintage in Sonoma County. The Cabernet for the 2021 edition of this wine was sourced from the Star Springs Ranch in Alexander Valley (40%) and our Estate Vineyard (30%) and Gradek Ranch (30%) in Dry Creek Valley. Each offers a different soil type, micro-climate and or aspect which contributes to the complexity of the final blend.

Vintage: The 2021 growing season began with a dry, cold winter but saw a swift rise in spring temperatures, fostering robust vine growth and successful flowering. Summer remained temperate, and the calm growing season and drought conditions enabled grapes to reach phenolic ripeness at lower sugar levels while preserving aromatics and bright acidity. Cabernet Sauvignon lots for this wine were harvested from September 21st through October 15th.

Winemaking: The grapes were de-stemmed into small open-top tanks for a long cold soak to encourage development of color before fermentation began spontaneously with wild yeast. Fermentation continued without the addition of any chemicals or enzymes, aided only by the heat of the sun and gravity-fed "pump-overs" once per day. After pressing the wine went into French oak barrels – 30% of which were new – aged for 24 months, and was raked only once, immediately prior to bottling.