

# JUDGE



# PALMER

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

2014

BECKSTOFFER GEORGES III  
RUTHERFORD, NAPA VALLEY

### *Tasting Notes:*

“Cassis, blueberry and mocha flavors are dusted in nutmeg and clove in this rich, soft red from the famous site. The ripeness is in balance and measured. 90 points.” - Virginia Boone, *Wine Enthusiast*

### *Vineyard:*

One of the most famous plots of land in all of Napa, the Beckstoffer Georges III Vineyard is located on the valley floor in Rutherford between Conn Creek Road and Silverado Trail. The well-draining, gravelly loam soils from the former creek bed combine with ideal sun exposure to yield wines with richness, fruit intensity and structure. This wine is sourced from the B1a and E blocks of the vineyard, planted on opposite sides of Conn Creek.

### *Vintage:*

The third straight year of drought triggered much stress for vineyard owners, but generally contributed to fantastic quality wines. A warm dry winter caused the vines to start their annual life cycle ahead of schedule, but aside from some wind, the spring was free of major weather. All the grape varieties seemed to ripen at once, and the pace in the winery at crush was hectic, but luckily the cooler than normal August brought us an average size crop of ripe grapes with beautifully balanced acids.

### *Winemaking:*

The grapes were destemmed into one open-top tank for a brief cold soak before fermentation began spontaneously with wild yeast. Fermentation continued without the addition of any chemicals or enzymes, aided only by a bit of heat and occasional pump-overs. After pressing the wine went into 100% new French oak barrels and aged for 24 months, and was racked only once, immediately prior to bottling.

### *Food Pairings:*

This is delicate enough that it doesn't need a ton of fat - try it with a pan-seared filet mignon or pork chop. It also does just fine by itself...