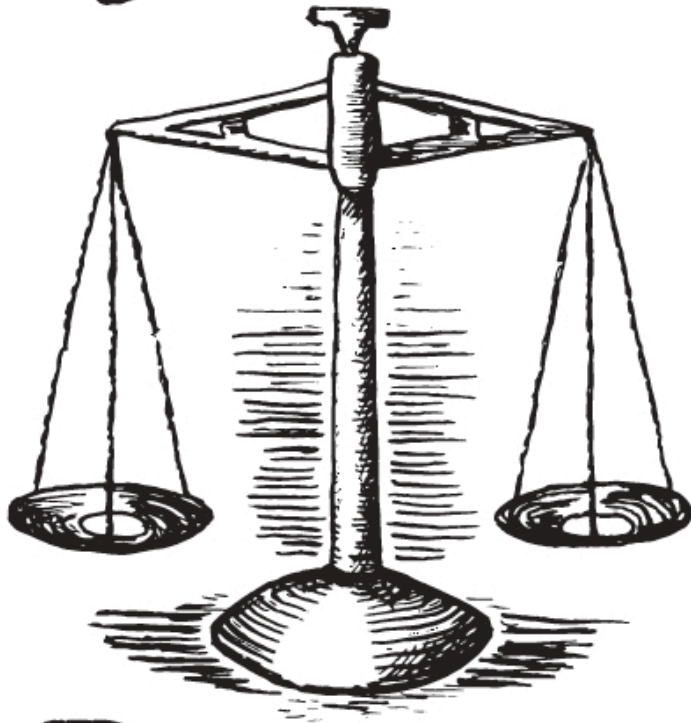


JUDGE



PALMER

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

2011

BECKSTOFFER GEORGES III
RUTHERFORD, NAPA VALLEY

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 block of the vineyard, planted in 1992 to Cabernet clone 7.

Vintage: With persistent cool and wet weather throughout the growing season, 2011 was dubbed by many in Napa as the “Bordeaux vintage.” The split canopy trellising in the B1a block protected our vines against the frost, rain and hail that this strange year brought, allowing us to wait longer to pick than most wineries. We finally harvested on October 29th, with the longer hang time giving us increased flavor development at perfectly balanced acid levels.

Winemaking: In one small lot, the grapes were destemmed into an 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 sporadic pump-overs. After pressing the wine went into French oak barrels – 55% of which were new – aged for 24 months, and was racked only once, immediately prior to bottling.