

VASO

2018 VASO by Dana Estates Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

VINTAGE

The 2018 growing season began with a dry winter followed by ample rainfall in the spring to fill the soil reservoir. The latter rains delayed bud break a few weeks with the growing season starting in the first couple weeks in April. Mild temperatures in April and May brought steady canopy growth through bloom at the beginning of June. The perfect weather during set in addition to the wet 2017 winter set the vines up for a larger than average crop. The rest of the season was mild with only a few hot days, perfect weather for developing color and flavor while moderating sugar levels at peak ripeness.

HARVEST

Our 2018 Harvest began on September 25th in our western facing Crystal Springs Vineyard. The next week we continued harvest at Lotus Vineyard, just north of Crystal Springs. The core of our VASO blend comes from our highest and coolest vineyard, Hershey Vineyard sitting atop Howell Mountain. Harvest of Malbec and Merlot started at Hershey on October 4th, and the remainder of the Cabernet being picked mid to late October. Valley floor fruit, including fruit from our Rutherford Helms Vineyard, had the most diverse ripening, being picked starting October 8th to the 19th.

METHOD

We used various fermentation vessels to harness the complexity of our sites including oak upright tanks, single barrel fermentations, and concrete tanks. After undergoing native fermentation, the free run juice is drained directly to barrel for native malolactic fermentation and aging, not being touched again until blending in early Spring.

SENSORY

The 2018 VASO Cabernet Sauvignon is a true snapshot of the abundant vintage with a plush entry, full of bright candied fruit, and a bright acidity. This wine showcases the different terroirs of Napa Valley in the Cabernet-based blend with fragrances of dried blueberry, maple, and plum preserves. The soft entry is richly concentrated with flavors of berry compote, savory allspice, toasted oak and a juicy freshness that is in perfect balance. The broad tannins are centrally located and linger with the long dark chocolate finish. This highly aromatic wine is approachable now and will continue to gracefully build as the years pass.

STATISTICS

Appellation | Napa Valley

Blend | 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot, 4% Malbec, 1% Petit Verdot

Élevage | 22 months in 14% new French oak, 86% used French Oak

Coopers | Taransaud, Demptos, Sylvain, Ermitage, Baron

Alcohol | 14.9% **pH** | 3.71 **TA** | 5.5 g/L

Bottling Date | September 17th, 2020

