

VASO

2019 VASO by Dana Estates Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

VINTAGE

The 2019 growing season started off with ample rainfall through the early spring, followed by one of the wettest May's on record. The much-needed hydration resulted in full canopies and softer acidity in finished wines. The cooler weather through mid-summer slowed shoot growth and delayed veraison by a few weeks. In mid-August the season heated up with 90+ degree temperatures that continued through the end of September. Ideal weather conditions in October allowed the fruit to ripen to optimal maturity without the threat of rain or heat spikes. The 2019 wines reflect the vintage with opulent fruit, full body, and a broad textured finish.

HARVEST

Harvest began on September 30th 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 9th, 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 conclusion of harvest on October 24th.

METHOD

Our philosophy of minimal intervention in the vineyard and winery has resulted in a slow progression to dry farming. This forces the vines to look deeper for water, but also for nutrients and minerals. The results are balanced vines that produce small, intensely flavored berries with thick dark skins. We used various fermentation vessels to harness the complexity of our sites including oak upright tanks, single barrel fermentations, and concrete tanks. After undergoing fermentation, the free run juice is drained directly off skins to barrel for native malolactic fermentation and aging, not being touched again until blending in early Spring.

SENSORY

The 2019 VASO Cabernet Sauvignon represents the warmer season with a plush, inviting entry expressing flavors of blackberry compote, spiced plum, and a long savory finish. The well-integrated, round tannins and low oak impact highlight the silky mouthfeel and vibrancy of the fruit. On the palate the wine opens with toasty almonds, baked strawberries, leading to savory herbs, and a creamy milk chocolate finish. This vintage presented rich, elegant wines with broad tannins and silky a mouthfeel. This approachable wine is beautiful now and will age gracefully as time passes.

STATISTICS

Appellation | Napa Valley

Blend | 95% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Merlot, 1% Malbec, 1% Cabernet Franc

Élevage | 24 months in 15% new French oak

Alcohol | 15.3% **pH** | 3.76 **TA** | 6.0 g/L

Bottling Date | November 16th, 2020

