

VASO

2015 VASO by Dana Estates Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

VINTAGE

The 2015 vintage produced excellent fruit quality. Our vineyards received slightly less than average rainfall but compared to the previous years of drought conditions the vines started the growing season with ample water in the soil. The winter and spring were among the warmest on record and pushed bud-break 2-3 weeks ahead setting up for an early harvest. The warm dry spring led to less vine growth with shorter than average shoots. However, the much smaller than average crop with small berries and loose clusters created balanced vines. The warm spring gave way to a summer that was hot and dry, causing some challenges with numerous heat spells that lasted multiple days. The small vine canopies and our dedication to minimal irrigation over the last decade paid dividends in 2015 with minimal fruit desiccation even after prolonged 100F+ days with extremely low humidity. This gave us the flexibility to harvest based on flavor not desiccation level and capture the character of the vineyard in the wines. The vintage will be remembered as an early, low yielding, hot vintage, with focused wines.

HARVEST

The early start to the season also made for our earliest start to harvest. Starting on September 8th we harvested Crystal Spring over 3 days. Lotus was picked next on September 12th followed a week later by our earliest block at Hershey. Smaller vines and our commitment to minimal irrigation over the past decade produced intensely flavored fruit with minimal dehydration. Harvest wrapped up with the clone 8 cabernet at Hershey on October 12th.

METHOD

We used various fermentation vessels to harness the complexity of our sites. After undergoing native fermentation, the wines were drained and pressed directly to barrel where the native malolactic fermentation ran its course.

SENSORY

Aromatically complex, the 2015 Vaso captures the different terroirs and varieties of this Cabernet blend with fragrances of red currant, plums, sage, and loam with hints of tobacco box and spices. The entry has flavors of Bing cherries and dried herbs as the hillside tannins fills out the mid palate. The wine supple yet structured palate. Ripe strawberry, forest floor, and a light minerality linger on the finish. Lush and approachable now, this wine will continue to develop as the years pass.

STATISTICS

Appellation | Napa Valley

Blend | 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot, 3% Malbec, 1% Cabernet Franc

Élevage | 20 months in French oak

Coopers | Ermitage, Taransaud, Baron, Demptos, Sylvain, Artisan

Alcohol | 14.5%

TA | 5.4 g/L

pH | 3.90 g/L

Bottling Date | June 28, 2017

