



VENGE 2012 BONE ASH VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY

The 2012 vintage is simply spectacular. This wine begins with wonderful purple color and aromatics that speak in the blue fruit spectrum. Black and blue berries, jelly jar and jammy notes fill the senses. As this wine opens up, the background notes of French Oak vanillin and earth come forth. This is true Cabernet expression. Great fruit, mid-palate, body and streaming length; it's all in there! The palate is polished and sophisticated. Cranberry, black currant, blackberry and black cherry are all intertwined. The acid and tannin balance is promising. This wine will drink its best from 2016 through 2030.

IN THE VINEYARD

Our Calistoga Estate "Bone Ash Vineyard" is our second of three estate vineyards we own and farm in Napa Valley. Much like our Oakville Estate and our Signal Fire Vineyard, the vines are dry-farmed, or nearly so, with vine age averaging 30+ years. The cane pruned vines are comprised of Cabernet Clones #7 and #8, these vines' roots are established very deep which allows the use of minimal irrigation. That struggle makes for wines with excellent flavor, body and overall complexity. We employ a minimalist approach on our Calistoga Estate, with near organic processes in the farming of the property.

IN THE CELLAR

The fruit was hand sorted and destemmed into small, open top, stainless steel fermentors and time on skins lasted 44 days. The fruit was then lightly pressed, keeping "free run" and "press" fractions separate and aged in 85% new, tight grained French Oak barrels for a total of 22 months. While we do add yeast to finish primary fermentation, we allow the indigenous malolactic bacteria to complete the secondary fermentation. Bottled unfinned, unfiltered.



100% Estate Produced and Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon
0.62 g/100mL T.A.,
3.41 pH,
14.9% Alc.

"The 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Bone Ash Vineyard (393 cases were bottled unfinned and unfiltered) comes from a 12-acre site in Calistoga planted over 21 years ago. A compelling Cabernet Sauvignon, it offers copious notes of crème de cassis, charcoal, graphite and a hint of minerality as well as terrific blackberry and cassis fruit. It is a killer effort from one of the great craftsmen of Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. Enjoy this beauty over the next 20-25 years, although I suspect it will last even longer."

98 POINTS

Robert M. Parker, Jr.

393 Cases Produced