



Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2015

Napa Valley, California

ESTATE

Chateau Montelena's history is one of the deepest and most storied in the Napa Valley and California. Founded just north of Calistoga in 1882, it was one of the largest wineries in the state. Prohibition put an end to Montelena's winemaking, and the next major era began in 1968, when Jim Barrett purchased the estate. Jim fell in love with this exceptional property, blessed with a complex mix of soils, slopes and biodiversity of wildlife and fauna. He had a dream of creating wine at the level of the great First Growths of Bordeaux, and set about replanting the vineyard, outfitting the winery with modern equipment, and studying the processes necessary for farming and winemaking at the highest quality level.

WINE

The wines at Chateau Montelena are often described as having classic "old-world" structure with ripe California fruit, and the Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is emblematic of this style. These wines tend to have more acid and more moderate alcohol levels as compared to some of the "cult" Cabs. This combination of classic chemistry and California sunshine allows them to offer immediate pleasure and complexity on release, and the ability to develop beautifully.

VINEYARD

Soils: All of the prime vineyard sites have been selected for their alluvium soil profile. These soils provide an earthy, complex and concentrated Cabernet Sauvignon softened by the judicious addition of Merlot. The cobbly, gravelly subsoil makes for deep root penetration and good drainage.

Farming: Chateau Montelena is committed to sustainable farming and produces wine in their solar powered winery.

Grape Varieties: 91% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot and 1% Cabernet Franc

WINEMAKING

Fermentation: Temperature-controlled stainless steel allows the wines to ferment slowly and evenly.

Aging: 16 months in French and Eastern European oak barrels (26% new).

Alcohol: 14.2% ABV

VINTAGE

Climate: The weather in 2015 was highly conducive to producing ripe, concentrated wines. Warm, dry conditions catalyzed an early start to the growing season. A temperate Spring gave way to manageable summer temperatures.

Vineyard Work: Judicious work was required as the effects of the multi-year drought limited yields.



VINOUS MEDIA

"Montelena's 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon is gorgeous. Pliant and supple, the 2015 offers notable density and raciness in an up-front style that will drink well upon release. Succulent red/purplish fruit, spice, new leather and licorice are front and center. A wine of total allure, the 2015 hits all the right spots...It is one of the best values readers will find in Napa Valley Cabernet. Don't miss it."