



2015 Hesperian Cabernet Sauvignon

Napa Valley

Description

With a toasty, Pauillac-like profile, this has plummy and sweet fruit, with aromas that are the essence of ripe Cabernet Sauvignon grapes, a distinctive leathery-fruity smell of its own. *The Wine Advocate* noted its notes of “licorice, tar, black soil and sautéed herbs over a core of cassis, plum preserves and espresso with a hint of bouquet garni.”

Vineyard

50% of this wine comes from the Kitoko Vineyard, named for the Congolese Lingala word for “beautiful,” is a 14.2 acre vineyard high on Atlas Peak, planted to Cabernet Sauvignon in 2000 and 2003. The soils here are extremely rocky, dry, and poor, quite similar to Pritchard Hill to the north, studded with fractured andesite rock and boulders.

The remaining 50% of the wine comes from the Upstream vineyard in Coombsville.

The Harvest

2015 was the last in the quartet of “drought vintages” in the Napa Valley: 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015. A shy fruit set, lack of water, and intense summer heat formed dense, complex, powerful wines whose only flaw is that there is not enough of them to go around.

ALCOHOL LEVEL: 14.5%
CÉPAGE: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
ÉLEVAGE: 20 Months in 50% new French oak
PRODUCTION: 300 cases
OPTIMAL AGING: Now - 2035

ACCLAIM: 93 points ~ James Suckling