



2015 Hesperian Cabernet Sauvignon

Kitoko Vineyard
Atlas Peak, Napa Valley

Description

This wine has it all. Made from 10 tons of fruit from 14 acres, low yields caused by “shatter from hell,” according to Philippe - this flaunts notes of tiramisu, black cherry liqueur, spicy oak, and money ink. The Wine Advocate loved its “cassis, crushed blackberries, cigar box and Marmite toast nose with hints of Chinese five spice and dried mint.” Gorgeous red and black fruit aromas interplay effortlessly.

Vineyard

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 proximity to the San Pablo Bay brings persistent winds which—along with the heat and arid soil, cause the set of very small berries and loose bunches, and consistently delay ripening each year. Dry farming is not possible here, and the vines are watered for brief stretches to optimize ripening.

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: 14.4%
CÉPAGE: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
ÉLEVAGE: 20 Months in 80% new French oak
PRODUCTION: 300 cases
OPTIMAL AGING: Now - 2035

ACCLAIM: 94 points ~ *The Wine Advocate*
93 points ~ *James Suckling*