



## 2023 Napa Valley Cabernet Franc

- A blend of Phoenix Vineyard, Cressida Vineyard, and Matthiasson Vineyard.
- Estate-grown, Organically Farmed. Native yeast.
- The pH is 3.82, the TA is 5.41 g/L, and the alcohol is 12%. 410 cases produced.
- Perfumed red fruits balanced by savory, herbal complexity.

Cabernet Franc is particularly representative of the site where it is grown, and at its best it is delicate, intriguing, and difficult to grasp. Beguiling. We are in the sunny Napa Valley and we know that the wine will have beautiful fruit flavors, so we focus on the mineral and herbal aspects of its character. We end up with a wine that somehow manages to be both delicate yet powerful, aromatic, long, and with an ethereal lightness. It's a completely different expression of Cabernet Franc than one usually finds in the new or the old world, informed by the wines of Chinon, but something totally unique in and of itself. This wine is a true representation of the terroir of our Napa vineyards and shows a restrained side of Napa that is rarely seen anymore.

The wine is a blend of Cabernet franc from the Phoenix Vineyard (60%), the Cressida Vineyard (40%). Both vineyards share the same ridge of ancient shale to elevates the aromatics and provides the transparency.

We included 50% whole clusters in the fermentation to lean into the savory side of Cab Franc and bring structure. Using whole clusters also gives us more of that captivating Cab Franc spice. We fermented in small open top tanks, with two punch downs per day. We gently pressed just after dryness and aged the wine in neutral puncheons for 10 months.

The Cabernet Franc has distinct aromas of dry fall leaves, chili flakes, and sage with lifted red fruits. The tannins are very soft in the mouth, with an iron-like minerality on the finish. It's light on the palate but firm at the same time — it's a wine with many contradictions that is hard to articulate. Easy drinking, but incredibly complex. Great with food.

### The Vineyards

The old vines of the Phoenix vineyard sit on some of the most unusual soils in the Napa Valley. While most of Napa soils are of volcanic origin, the East-facing, steep hillside Phoenix Vineyard is on a ridge of ancient marine shale soils. The rock content and sea minerals of these soils create unique wines with high-toned red fruits, perfumed and exotic, with a lightness in the mid-palate and a long soft finish. Located above the Oak Knoll District, the cool breezes from the SF Bay maintain acidity and aromatics.

Around the corner from the Phoenix Vineyard, the Cressida Vineyard is planted along the spine of a ridgetop in the upper section of Los Carneros, overlooking the Bay with the San Francisco skyline clearly visible across the water. It receives the perfect balance of warm sun and cooling Bay winds, straight off the Pacific and through the Golden Gate. The soils are shale from an ancient inland sea — the vineyard is the foot of the Mayacamas, with the Cressida Vineyard at the base and Mt. Veeder at the top. Raptors hover overhead, riding the winds thrust up as the Bay breezes meet the Cressida hillside.