

TEXTBOOK

NAPA VALLEY

2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

HIGHLIGHTS

- A diverse array of superb sites in Napa Valley deliver structure, balance and purity.
- Restrained viticultural and winemaking practices lead to varietal purity and a balanced flavor footprint.
- Classic Bordelaise winemaking (handwork in vineyard, hand-picking and hand sorting, new French oak barrels, egg-white fining, unfiltered) provides an impeccably balanced result.

VINTAGE

Vintage 2018 was picture perfect and began with bud break in late February and had steady and mild temperatures throughout the growing season. This allowed us to carefully plan and be proactive in the sites. Harvest went smoothly and slowly. It was a larger crop than normal, but the slow pace of harvest allowed patience and the delicious flavors were really encouraging.

VINEYARDS

Fifteen diverse vineyard lots create complexity in this year's blend. Working with top Napa Valley growers we layer in wines from shallow volcanic soils and deeper alluvial soils on the valley floor. Each vineyard contributes texture and mouthfeel as well as rich black fruit flavors that finish in a seamless, well-balanced manner: textbook. Overall, we look for nuance and balance so our 2018 showcases superlative "Napa Valley Cabernet" in a classic, delicious and very well-mannered way.

FERMENTATION & MATURATION

Harvest began in late September and its slow ripening allowed us to be super selective and patient – always a bonus! Clusters were field-sorted and then hand-picked and hand sorted and Brix averaged 24.8 as we strive for a bit more balance in our Napa Valley Cabernet. Cold soaking for a few days (to deliver robust color) was de rigeur and then once fermentation started it was kept below 90°F. Fermentation began spontaneously with prevailing, local yeasts and one daily punch down kept the cap immersed in must, extracting superb flavor and structure. After inoculation with cultured yeasts and 26 days on their skins the must was gently pressed into French oak barriques at 5 brix where it completed fermentation. Barrels were 100% French, 30% new, three-year air-dried, medium-plus toast and hand-bent by Cadus and Francois Freres in central France. Sixteen months barrel maturation with only one racking and one organic egg white fining integrated flavors and developed its wonderfully smooth mouth-feel.

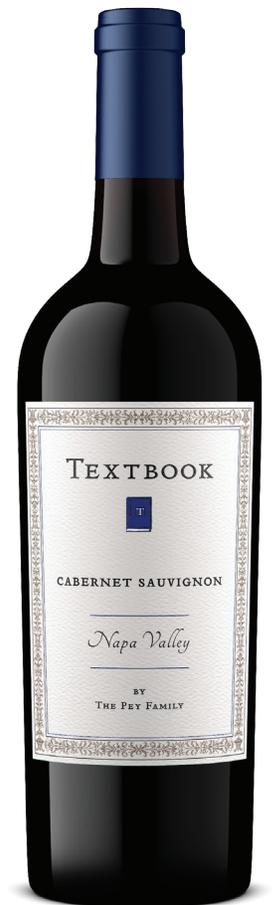
REGION: 100% Napa Valley

GRAPES: 92% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot

OAK: 100% French, 30% New

AGING: 16 months

PH: 3.69 ABV: 13.3%



Features excellent density, range and depth of flavor, built around cedar-laced blackberry and currant notes. The finish is structured, impeccably balanced and gains a nice earthy edge, showing traction and structure.