



2018 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Stagecoach Vineyard

Varietal Composition:

97% Cabernet Sauvignon 3% Petite Verdot

Aging:

20 months 75% New French Oak

Production:

165 Cases

James Suckling 93 Points *Perfumed aromas of pine needles, dried herbs, grated dark chocolate and ripe blueberries. Sandalwood, too. It's full-bodied with firm, ripe and creamy tannins. Exudes power. Better from 2023.*

Jeb Dunne 93 Points *The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Stagecoach Vineyard (97% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Petit Verdot) comes from a larger vineyard on Pritchard Hill and reveals a deep purple/blue hue as well as solid aromatics of crème de cassis, toasty oak, framboise, and dried flowers. This spicy, medium to full-bodied Cabernet has plenty of sweet fruit, a rounded, nicely textured mouthfeel, beautiful balance, and outstanding length. It's just another gorgeous 2018 that delivers the goods. It's already hard to resist yet should evolve nicely for 10-15 years.*

Vineyards:

1,800 feet above the valley floor in the eastern Vaca Mountains of Napa Valley lies the famed Stagecoach Vineyard. Stagecoach Vineyard extends from the Atlas Peak AVA all the way north to the Pritchard Hill region. Our Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet is from Block C3A in the Pritchard Hill region of the vineyard and is planted to Clone 337. This region of Napa is characterized by red, volcanic rock and large diurnal shifts which are ideal for ripening Cabernet Sauvignon.

Winemaking:

The hand-picked fruit was destemmed, sorted and moved to a combination of a closed top stainless tank and small new 60 Gallon French oak barrels for fermentation. After a 5-day cold soak the must was inoculated. The wine stayed on its skins for 21 days and pressed at dryness. The barrel fermented wine and tank fermented wine was kept separate until a barrel selection could be made. To enhance the color and complexity we blended in a small amount of Petite Verdot from the Atlas Peak portion of Stagecoach Vineyard.

Tasting Notes:

The wine pours a nearly opaque purple with a bouquet of black cherry freshly cut cedar, crushed rocks and vanilla brioche bread. The palate is slick and tight in its youth with fine grained tannins enveloping the tongue. Red berry flavors give way to soy sauce and cola. This wine will reward cellaring and/or a long decant.

Technical Data:

pH: 3.56 TA: 7.2 g/L Alc: 14.9%

Winemaker: Casey Stringer

