



2012 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Kuleto is one of the most complex and diverse wine producing properties in the world. Located in the volcanic mountains of eastern Napa our estate features 781 total acres and 82.9 acres of vines perched along ridges and clinging to steep hillsides. Our soils, exposures, elevation changes and sub-climates are so complex that we've delineated our property into more than 100 micro-blocks. Each of these tiny plots is treated as an individual vineyard with varieties, clones, rootstocks, density, trellising and farming methods tailored specifically to the site.

For winemaker Dave Lattin, there is a mutual understanding that all but a small percentage of the winemaker's work is done in the vineyard. Keeping the vineyard's serpentine twists and exposures in mind, the best-suited varietals for each block have been selected. Working with the land, not against it, the individually terraced lots are not oriented to one central direction, but instead are planted to maximize the benefits of their natural location.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Vintage 2012 was considered 'perfect' by the prognosticators as soon as the last grapes were making their way to the wineries. It was perfect in the sense that quality and quantity benefited both grower and winemaker. The weather cooperated throughout all critical parts of the growing season to produce beautifully ripe and flavorful fruit.

Putting together the 2012 estate Cabernet Sauvignon blend posed a challenge due to a wealth of riches from such a vintage. Every lot was of such high quality that it was hard to high-grade any wine. It wasn't until we tasted barrel by barrel that subtle differences in quality emerged within and among the wines. Our goal for the 'estate' blend is to create a wine that broadly represents Kuleto Estate in a given vintage. Barrels were selected from 11 different lots of wine that originated from 24 different blocks on the property. The hallmarks of the vintage were opulent fruit aromas and lush tannins. Though it was a warm vintage, there were no over-ripe aromas, and the wines retained their strong varietal and location-driven characters.

The color of the 2012 is as fresh and bright as the day it was put to barrel. Fresh blackberry syrup, fresh ground black pepper (floral and spicy), and fresh thyme dominate the aroma. The mouth is densely flavored, plush, and succulent. The wine is as immediately appealing as the 2009 was but has the structure to outlive it by years. The morning after having drunk it recently at home, my glass was stained dark purple and the aromas still lingered.

TECHNICAL DATA

Varietal Composition 84% Cabernet Sauvignon, (plus 7% Syrah, 4% Malbec, 2% Merlot, 2% Cab Franc, 1% Petit Verdot each co-fermented with Cab Sauv at harvest)

Vineyard Kuleto Estate, 1100 - 1250 feet elevation | Alcohol 14.5%

Aging 20 months in 40% new oak, 100% French, racked twice | pH 3.73 | TA 6.0 g/l

Cases Produced 3115 cases 750 ml (in 6230 six-packs)