



2012 PROPRIETARY RED NAPA VALLEY

HARVESTED		October 8-10, 2012
VINEYARDS		Pahlmeyer Waters Ranch, Stagecoach, Rancho Chimiles
BOTTLED		May 16, 2014
COMPOSITION		79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 4% Malbec, 1% Petit Verdot
ALCOHOL		15.2%
WINEMAKER		Kale Anderson

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2012 growing season began relatively dry, continuing with a warm spring and perfect weather for fruit set. The vines produced a record amount of high-quality small-berry clusters, enabling us to nurture the crop with great precision. In all, we kept just half the initial yield to ensure optimal ripeness. The berries developed exceptionally rich flavor, color and density, most notably in the Merlot, which plays a prominent role in the 2012 Proprietary Red, similar to blends from last decade.

WINEMAKING NOTES

The grape clusters were hand-sorted, de-stemmed, and individual berries selected by our winemaking team. After seven to fifteen days of a gentle cold soak in small open-top fermenters, the fruit began 100% native yeast fermentation. After two to three weeks, the fruit was gently pressed and the juice was moved to barrel where it finished primary and malolactic fermentation, also native. The wine continued to age in 95% new, super fine-grained, medium-plus and heavy toasted French oak Bordeaux export barrels for eighteen months. The wine was bottled unfiltered and minimally filtered.

TASTING NOTES

Beginning with its deep purple hue and glints of ruby, this wine is opulent in every sense. Aromas of juicy ripe black cherry and floral raspberry marry with fresh citrus blossom, pencil lead and a hint of marzipan. Smooth, sweet tannins frame the unctuous mouthfeel, dazzling with a balance of rich complexity and fresh acidity. On the palate, notes of ripe black cherry, cassis, mocha and sarsaparilla merge with captivating briny green olive, light ash and orange peel. A crescendo of intense black fruit, bitter chocolate and sweet cigar extend the rhapsody through an endless finish, presenting ample time to savor this extraordinary wine.

CELLARING

Best from 2020 through 2035, with a sustained plateau beyond 2040. Delightful upon release, but allow a minimum of 90 minutes for decanting. This enormous Bordeaux-style blend will evolve magnificently with proper cellaring, promising even more opulent layering in a richly caressing mouthfeel.

REVIEWS

“Deep blackberry, black cherry, cassis, creamy vanillin and honeyed fatness and richness are present in this lusty, full-bodied, classic Napa Cabernet-based wine. The finish lasts for 40-45 seconds. This blockbuster red should drink well for 25+ years.” **93-95+ points.** Robert Parker, Wine Advocate

“Flat out sexy. Rich, layered and voluptuous... Captures the essence of the year in its soft contours, impeccable balance and pure California opulence. 2015-2027.” **93-95 points.** Antonio Galloni, Vinous