



2014 BELLA UNION NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

VINEYARD DESCRIPTION

Located in Rutherford along Bella Oaks Lane—hallowed ground for Napa Valley Cabernet—the 25-acre Bella Union Vineyard is planted to Cabernet Sauvignon, with a small portion devoted to Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. This western bench location offers an ideal combination of cool evenings and warm afternoons, which, in turn, allows the grapes to ripen fully and evenly. The site's well-draining, gravelly loam soil plays an equally important role, contributing to the signature character of the vineyard. The fruit is intense, beautifully proportioned and complex with aromatic ripe plum, black cherry and currant flavors.

HARVEST NOTES

The 2014 growing season was characterized by consistently warm weather. A dry winter led to ideal conditions for bloom and set, yielding a healthy spring crop. The mild weather persisted into the summer, with a brief heat spell in June. Veraison started in mid-July, and the moderate summer heat provided perfect conditions for optimal ripening. Flavors were fully developed thanks to a heat spell in mid-September, and we began harvest. We brought in the last of our beautifully ripe fruit by the second week of October.

SENSORY EVALUATION

The 2014 Bella Union Cabernet Sauvignon offers hedonistic bright red cranberry, raspberry, boysenberry, dark plum and earth aromas, married with vanilla spice, toast, warm caramel and coffee aromas. The palate expands with concentrated, dark red fruit, black cherry, boysenberry and plum. On the finish, the palate gives way to warm toasted flavors complemented by toffee and coffee notes. This well-balanced wine is structured from start to finish with an enchanting texture that lingers through to completion.

APPELLATION

Napa Valley

VARIETALS

98% Cabernet Sauvignon
2% Malbec

FERMENTATION

99% Stainless steel tanks
1% French oak puncheons

HARVEST DATES

September 16–October 13, 2014

AGING

French oak barrels
60% new, 40% once-used

TIME

16 months in barrel

SKIN CONTACT

18 days, average

RELEASE DATE

February 2017

WINEMAKER

Megan Melief

DIRECTOR OF WINEMAKING

Dirk Hampson

