



2016 BELLA UNION NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

VINEYARD DESCRIPTION

Bella Union was founded by the partners of Far Niente to specialize in the art of blending Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. The cornerstone of the blend is our 25-acre vineyard in Rutherford, along Bella Oaks Lane, a country road that was historically called Bella Union. The vineyard is planted primarily to Cabernet Sauvignon in well-drained loam, and the vines range from 20 – 30 years of age. Classic varietals of Malbec, Cabernet Franc and Petite Verdot sourced from select Napa Valley vineyards complete the blend.

HARVEST NOTES

A mild beginning to 2016 kept our vineyards warm and dry through February and spurred an early bud break. March rains and a moderate, frost-free spring allowed for slow, consistent fruit development, while temperate summer days and cool nights gave us ripe clusters with bright acidity. Harvest lasted from mid-September until mid-October, with the last fruit brought in just before major rains hit.

SENSORY EVALUATION

The 2016 Bella Union opens with inviting aromas of black cherry, dark plum, blueberry, and cassis with intimations of warm, toasty oak, vanilla, and baking spices. Expansive, fruit-forward plum, black cherry and blueberry flavors coat the midpalate, followed by notes of toasted oak, cinnamon and nutmeg. Supple tannins and bright acidity pave the way to a mouthwatering finish.

APPELLATION

Napa Valley

HARVEST DATES

September 13 - October 12, 2016

RELEASE DATE

August 2018

VARIETALS

89% Cabernet Sauvignon,
7% Malbec,
2% Cabernet Franc,
1% Merlot,
1% Petit Verdot

AGING

French oak barrels
69% new, 31% once-used

WINEMAKER

Megan Melief

TIME

16 months in barrel

DIRECTOR OF WINEMAKING

Dirk Hampson

FERMENTATION

100% Stainless steel tanks

SKIN CONTACT

14 days, average

