

SAM JASPER®

2021 CABERNET SAUVIGNON



From the beginning of this project, Thomas Rivers Brown and Ralf Holdenried sourced grapes expressly for Sam Jasper wine from a selection of their favorite Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards, deliberately including sites from valley floor and high-elevation mountain terroirs. Fruit is picked by hand at peak maturity in early morning hours. Production is limited by the exacting standards the winemakers have for sourcing. In 2021, 18 barrels of wine were made.

Brown and Holdenried oversaw each step of its winemaking, which began after crushing with a three day cold soak. Fermentation began naturally, without inoculation, when the tanks were allowed to warm, to encourage native yeasts to flourish. A few days after native fermentation took hold, the tank's temperature increased, yeasts were added and a relatively hot, short fermentation with regular pumpovers ensured early extraction. This technique was key to creating Sam Jasper Cabernet Sauvignon's mid-palate generosity — an explosion of flavor after the wine's initial attack that fills out the palate with buoyant, intense and complex layers of fruit. The wine finished its primary fermentation in small, new French oak barrels coopered by Taransaud, Darnajou, and Nadalie Colbert. Decanting to barrels while residual sugar remains in the wine slowed down fermentation and, Brown believed, helped create more complex flavors in the final wine.

TASTING NOTES

A deep inky purple, this wine presents captivating aromas of ripe brambly berries and plums, accented by hints of walnut husk and cedar. On the palate, it bursts with bold flavors of black currant and cherry, unfolding in a luxurious, silky texture. Vibrant fruit notes intertwine with subtle hints of espresso, chocolate, and graphite, culminating in a long, lingering finish.

APPELLATION	Napa Valley
VARIETAL	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
PRODUCTION	450 cases (three-bottle cases)
ALCOHOL	15%
MATURATION	~20 months in 18 new French oak barrels
COOPERAGE	Taransaud, Darnajou, Nadalie Colbert
BOTTLED	Unfined and Unfiltered
FRUIT SOURCE	Half of the 18 barrels for the 2021 Sam Jasper are borne from the rugged, high-elevation Mt. Veeder Springs Vineyard, complemented by eight barrels from the exceptional Gemstone Vineyard in Yountville. Adding a final touch of complexity, less than a barrel each was sourced from the southeast-facing One Lane Bridge Vineyard on Mt. Veeder and the Baker Vineyard on Atlas Peak, perched at 1,200 feet above the valley floor.

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