



# BLACK STALLION

ESTATE WINERY

Transcendent Cabernet Sauvignon epitomizes our winemaking belief: to craft luxurious, unforgettable wines that capture the depth and brilliance of Napa Valley's diverse growing regions. Made from a selection of the twenty best barrels from the best vineyard lots of the vintage, this small-lot, reserve cuvée represents the pinnacle of the Black Stallion Estate Winery portfolio.

## TASTING NOTES

Deep garnet in hue, Transcendent Cabernet Sauvignon is a wine of depth, poise and elegance. It boasts exquisite aromas of black currant, pipe tobacco and dark cherry, and a luxuriously textured, mouth filling palate defined by layers of ripe, mocha-inflected cassis, and allspice. Velvety, structured tannins frame the rich flavors, eventually yielding to a long and lingering finish.

## GROWING SEASON

The 2019 vintage in Napa Valley was another example of fantastic growing conditions that lead to prime quality grapes. The weather in January/February was cool, not extremely cold, and the cooler weather extended a bit later than usual. The cooler weather caused the grapevines to break bud a couple weeks behind normal. We expected the late budbreak and cooler weather to slow and extend the ripening period and result in a later than normal harvest. In May, there were some storms that passed through Napa Valley and delivered a significant amount of water to the vineyards. This water recharged the water immediately available to the vines and allowed them to grow with immense vigor. Berry sizes were a bit larger than normal and lead to a large harvest, almost as much as the huge 2018 harvest. Mild weather throughout the growing season gently encouraged the vines to fully ripen the grapes and pack them full of flavor.

## VINEYARD

Sourced from some of the highest regarded vineyards in the Napa Valley, Transcendent is an expression of the best of Napa Valley. The wide range of AVA sources allows our winemaking team to create an exquisitely balanced wine with utmost elegance. The Cabernet Sauvignon sourced from the higher elevations contribute to the structure, texture, and concentrated flavor in the wine. Cabernet Sauvignon from the valley contributes to the notes of tobacco and herbs and to the elegant tannins of the wine.

## WINEMAKING

A meticulous – or some might say obsessive – pursuit of perfection underlies each step taken to craft this Cabernet. Once grapes reached ideal ripeness, they were harvested by hand in the early dawn to preserve the fruit's delicate flavors. The grapes were sorted by hand to remove any imperfect bunches and berries. After de-stemming (a step which prevents adding the “green” flavors and bitterness that can come from fermenting grape stems), the fruit spent three days cold soaking in small, open-top steel tanks. This process leeches color and flavor from the grapes without extracting astringency. On the third day, the must was warmed, and yeast added to begin fermentation. As the grapes fermented, pump overs were performed multiple times throughout the day to extract color, flavor, and tannins from the skins. When fermentation finished, the wine was drained via gravity directly into French oak barrels (90% new). The skins were gently pressed, with the flavor-rich pressings added to the barrel with the free run juice, and portions of the wine were left to mature for 20 months. As the lots aged separately, periodic tastings evaluated their quality. The best barrels were earmarked as potential components of Transcendent. The final wine is the culmination of countless rounds of blind tastings and trial blends.

VINTAGE: 2019

VARIETAL COMPOSITION: Cabernet Sauvignon

APPELLATION: 65% Atlas Peak, 21% Napa Valley, 20% Yountville, 1% Other

BARREL AGING: 20 months in 90% new French oak barrels

RS: 0.19 g/100ml • PH: 3.68g • TOTAL ACID: 0.59 g/100ml • ALCOHOL BY VOL: 15.0%



## 2019 TRANSCENDENT NAPA VALLEY

### CABERNET SAUVIGNON

