

SAM JASPER®

2019 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 benchland, 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 2019, 24 barrels of wine were made.

Brown and Holdenried oversaw each step of its winemaking, which began after crushing, with an unusually long cold soak of five to seven days. 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 French oak barrels coopered by Taransaud and Demptos. 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

An inky purple hue, the wine offers fragrant aromas of ripe, brambly berries and plums, edged in notes of walnut husk and cedar. The palate explodes with intense flavors of red currant and cherry, fanning out in a broad, silky wave that mingles vibrant fruit flavors with accents of espresso, chocolate and graphite, and lingers on the long finish.

APPELLATION	Napa Valley
VARIETAL	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
PRODUCTION	518 cases (3-pack cases)
ALCOHOL	15%
MATURATION	16 months in 24 French oak barrels (21 new, 3 1-year-old)
COOPERAGE	Taransaud, Demptos, Treuil
BOTTLED	Unfined and Unfiltered
FRUIT SOURCE	64% Valley Floor, 30% Mountain Fruit, 6% Benchland

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