

CHATEAU MONTELENA

ESTABLISHED 1882



2022 Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

Winery

Over the last half-century, Chateau Montelena has garnered global recognition, crafting artisanal wines that evolve and endure, through the lens of their estate. Led by second-generation CEO Bo Barrett along with Winemaker Matthew Crafton, the winery continues to invest deeply in its land and refine its winemaking, all in pursuit of wines that express the character of their land and the nuances of each vintage.

Wine

Distinct from the Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, Chateau Montelena's Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon captures a broad expression of Napa Valley. Crafted to be more modern in style, this wine is fruit-forward, soft and approachable in its youth, while retaining the ability to age for 15 to 20 years.

Vineyards

The vast majority of the fruit for the Napa Cabernet Sauvignon program is grown at the Montelena Estate, while the remainder is grown in vineyards in eastern Calistoga and the Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley, further to the south. Their soils tend to be rich loams, high in organic matter that facilitates dry-farming, expressing suppleness and bright berry notes in the resulting fruit.

Vintage Notes

It's amazing how seven consecutive days, shortly before harvest began, will define this entire vintage. As a not-so-subtle reminder of the need for humility and our inability to predict the future, the high-pressure weather system and its associated heat that began at the beginning of September fundamentally altered the characteristics and expression of what had been a very classic, elementary Napa vintage. Balance and elegance moved to suppleness and concentration. Red fruit became dark fruit. The resulting wines are beautiful but a far cry from what was expected in August, a truly unique perspective from a truly unique vintage.

Harvest Dates

September 8~24, 2022

Tasting Notes

Driven by dark fruit, predominantly blackberry and cassis, the aromas are rich and intense. They are closely followed by spicy clove and vanilla before yielding to pipe tobacco and a touch of caramel. On the palate, the tannins are quite supple and dance between elevating the subtle streak of minerality and foiling the acid that slices through the body of the wine with zest and freshness. Strawberry and cranberry sauce highlight the transition to the finish and apex as the breadth of the wine expands. Here the tannins are more sandy, but they are a fine contrast to the soft, sweet fruit, expressing now as cola, graphite and black cherry.

Vineyard

Region:	California
Appellation:	Napa Valley
Sub-Appellation:	Calistoga
Soil:	Well-drained Alluvial Loams, rich in organic matter
Age/Exposure:	From 5 to 35 years, topographically oriented
Eco-Practices:	Sustainably farmed

Winemaking

Varietals:	85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot, 0.5% Petit Verdot, 0.5% Cabernet Franc
Aging:	16 Months, French and Eastern European Oak, 30% New
Bottling Dates:	April 1 - 9, 2024

Technical Details

Yeast:	Varies with the growing season
Alcohol:	14.2%
Total Acidity:	5.8 g/L
pH:	3.76