

CHATEAU MONTELENA

ESTABLISHED 1882

2012 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, Calistoga

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

The Chateau Montelena Estate Cabernet Sauvignon represents the purest expression of the Montelena Estate Vineyard, a site defined by its exceptional terroir and natural diversity that cannot be replicated anywhere else in Napa Valley. Recognized as a benchmark for classically styled, age-worthy Cabernet Sauvignon, the evolution in this wine is remarkable, offering enjoyment at every stage of its life, revealing additional depth and complexity over time.

Vineyards

The Chateau Montelena Estate is one of Napa Valley's most treasured sites. At the top of the Valley, the vineyard is located in the Calistoga AVA and home to an immensely diverse range of soils, slopes and microclimates. The soils of the Estate Vineyard are primarily Volcanic in origin, well-drained, difficult to work, and nutrient poor. It's in these soils as well as in the cobbly Alluvium adjacent to the headwaters of the Napa River that the vines struggle, producing low yields but of extremely high quality.

Vintage Notes

2012 was a vintage that beautifully showcased what makes the Montelena Estate so distinctive, even within Napa Valley. Our porous alluvial soils and rugged volcanic terrain absorbed the late-spring rains, while abundant sunshine and moderate temperatures created ideal growing conditions. By August, as much of the Valley experienced triple-digit heat, reliable northerly breezes arrived each afternoon, drawing cool Pacific air down Mt. St. Helena and across the Estate. The result was fruit that captured the very best of the vineyard, allowing us to craft a wine defined by elegance, structure, and finesse.

Harvest Dates

September 22 - October 21, 2012

Tasting Notes

A richly expressive wine with aromas of dried cherry, cocoa, muddled mint, and blackberry, gradually revealing subtle notes of tobacco, cedar, and perfume. The palate shows considerable depth, with fresh, tart raspberry balanced by rocky, earthy undertones and a texture that is both structured and voluptuous. Well integrated tannins and a touch of toast lead into a lingering finish of blueberry, cassis, and mocha.



Vineyard

Region:	California
Appellation:	Napa Valley
Sub-Appellation:	Calistoga
Soil:	Volcanic Ash (Andesite and Rhyolite) and Alluvium; deep, excessively drained and nutrient poor
Age/Exposure:	35+ years oriented 26.5° East of North Hillside
Eco-Practices:	Sustainably farmed

Winemaking

Varietals:	98.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Cabernet Franc, 0.5% Petit Verdot
Aging:	24 Months, 100% French Oak, 30% New
Bottling Dates:	February 2016

Technical Details

Yeast:	Varies with the growing season
Alcohol:	13.8%
Total Acidity:	6.0 g/L
pH:	3.60