

CHATEAU MONTELENA

ESTABLISHED 1882

2011 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

2011 was the most enigmatic in the string of three cool vintages beginning in 2009, as warm weather teased us for much of the season but never permanently settled in. By April, we had an inkling that a late harvest was on the horizon—everything from the flowers, insects, and trees here on the Estate were weeks behind in their life cycles. July arrived and a cautious sense of optimism materialized along with some sorely missed sunshine; however, the cold nights continued to persist, the fog lingered, and the heat from the Nevada desert stayed far, far away. With harvest approaching, we recognized the textbook Bordelaise flavor profile in the developing fruit and embraced the bright acid profile and soft textures that would come to be hallmarks of this vintage.

Harvest Dates

September 29 - October 29, 2011

Tasting Notes

One of the most elegant Estate Cabernets of the last decade, it opens with strawberry, rhubarb, and vanilla, followed by lavender, bay laurel, and allspice. The palate layers mineral-driven raspberry and earth with silky, fine tannins and a bright line of acidity, accented by subtle toasted oak. The finish is Bordelaise in its grace, with hints of cranberry, mint, and cocoa.

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:	99% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Cabernet Franc
Aging:	22 Months, 100% French Oak, 33% New
Bottling Dates:	December 2013

Technical Details

Yeast:	Varies with the growing season
Alcohol:	13.5%
Total Acidity:	6.0 g/L
pH:	3.60