

2 0 1 1

## Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

# SILVER OAK

### TASTING NOTES

Our 2011 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is an elegant representation of Napa Valley Cabernet from a cool vintage. It presents an opaque garnet hue in the glass and reveals aromas of sandalwood and roasted meats. Flavors of vanilla, coffee beans and raspberries are buttressed by dusty tannins, firm acidity and a mouth-coating texture. Given proper cellaring, this wine should provide drinking pleasure through 2029.

### BLENDING AND AGING

Our 2011 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is comprised of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.5% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot and 0.5% Malbec. It was blended in early 2012 and aged for 24 months in 80% new and 20% once-used American oak barrels. Early blending assures a balanced core and allows the components to achieve a seamless harmony during barrel aging. It was then aged for an additional 20 months in bottle before being released in February of 2016.

### VINTAGE DESCRIPTION

The 2011 vintage was the second in a pair of late ripening vintages for the Napa Valley. The application of precision farming methods and the use of berry sensory techniques in addition to traditional maturity analyses were critical to our success in a challenging season. Winter and spring were wet and atypically cold, with such conditions persisting through bloom, resulting in lower than normal yields. These conditions persisted through the summer with an especially thick and stubborn marine layer that resided over the valley floor. We were relieved when an Indian Summer arrived in September and resulted in a brief heatwave from the 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> and a sustained one from the 18<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>. These heat events triggered maturity in several vineyards and harvest began on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Precipitation occurred from October 3<sup>rd</sup> through October 6<sup>th</sup>, creating a pause in harvest. Crush resumed on October 10<sup>th</sup> and proceeded at a steady rate until the final grapes were harvested on November 1<sup>st</sup>, fifteen days later than a typical vintage. It was a vintage in which patience, experience and careful attentiveness played key roles.

VINTAGE	2011
APPELLATION	Napa Valley
COMPOSITION	76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.5% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot, 0.5% Malbec
BOTTLE SIZES	750ml, 1.5 L Magnum, 3 L Double Magnum, 6 L Imperial
ALCOHOL	13.8%
RELEASE DAY	February 6, 2016

