

Casaeda

2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley

Statistics

Blend:

94% Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley
44% St Helena
50% Coombsville
6% Cabernet Franc, St Helena
100% Napa Valley

Vineyards

The 2012 Casaeda Cabernet Sauvignon is from two vineyards in Napa Valley, both with very different microclimates. The Crocker Vineyard is an older vineyard in St Helena with a warmer, continental climate and heavier alluvial soils. The other vineyard, Lambert, is in Coombsville and is heavily influenced by the bay with cooler weather, and more fog. It is a younger hillside vineyard with soils that are lighter and contain more rock. It is in the newest Napa Valley appellation of Coombsville.

The 2012 vintage was idyllic, with warm but not hot temperatures, a long season but not too late, and perfect ripening conditions. The crop size was large and took most winemakers by surprise after filling all available tanks. Harvest was on October 29th for Crocker and October 31st for Lambert. The bigger crop level kept the grapes on the vine for an extended, but rain free harvest.

It was quite a relief and an easy harvest after 2010 and 2011!

Winemaking and Tasting Notes

The 2012 Casaeda Cabernet Sauvignon underwent a short 3 day cold soak, followed by a 13 day fermentation in small open and closed top fermenters. Twelve percent of the wine was fermented with submerged cap, and the rest with punch down and pump overs. Half of the wine was fermented with native yeast. It was pressed at dryness for optimal fresh aromatics and balanced tannins. The wine was aged entirely in French oak barrels for 13 months (5% new and 95% used French oak barrels).

The goal of my winemaking with Casaeda Cabernet is to make a wine that says "Napa Cabernet" with deep fruit flavors and balanced tannins...a wine that can be enjoyed with minimal cellaring but still has the depth of an excellent Napa Cab.

The 2012 Casaeda Cabernet has rich blackberry, anise and red stone fruit flavors with full tannins and a plush, velvety mid palate. The 2012 vintage produced wines that are very fruit forward. They have intense flavors, with beautiful, bright aromatics and excellent depth. There is a small amount of Cabernet Franc in the blend to add viscosity to the mid palate. The 2012 vintage is an impeccable vintage with both fresh lively flavors and dense body. The resulting wine is both approachable now, but could also age well for 5-7 years. The wine was bottled, unfinned and unfiltered in Dec, 2013. 510 cases bottled.

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