

2022 EISELE VINEYARD 'ALTAGRACIA' CABERNET SAUVIGNON

WINEGROWING INFORMATION

The dormancy period of 2022 is remembered for its extremely low cumulative rainfall, comparable to 2018 and 2021. Coincidentally, the warmer temperatures observed in January and February led to an early budbreak and a healthy cover crop. This prompted us to till more surface than usual at an earlier date to take advantage of spring rain and capture an optimal mineralization window. Spring temperatures set the course for an early onset of water stress. However, the milder climatic demand in Calistoga compared to the rest of the valley and good nutrient content in the soils led to a healthy crop. July was warm and August was mild, which resulted in harmonious sugar accumulation and juicy berries. Less irrigation was needed than in the 2 previous years. The first week of September, however, was hot and dry with a vapor pressure deficit reaching 8.5kPa. Misting was a great asset in mitigating the heat. A diligent cleaning of the sun damaged berries in the following days allowed us to bring our Cabernets Sauvignons, Francs and Petits Verdot to optimal maturity.

The youngest and the oldest Cabernets (Coyote 2 and Frediani 2) were picked first on September 5th. The magnificent Jardin 1 block on the volcanic hillside concluded our harvest on September 17th. The grape clusters were meticulously sorted at reception and the berries went through optical screening before getting to the fermentation vats. This 2022 vintage, whose subtlety and restraint were compelling at the end of malolactic fermentation, revealed its true personality and its flamboyancy while resting and ageing quietly for 20 months in French oak casks (19%) and new French oak barrels (81%).

The Eisele Vineyard grapes are certified 'Organic' by CCOF and 'Biodynamic' by Demeter.

TASTING NOTES

The 2022 Altagracia has a true volcanic identity. The nose is floral and delicate at first. After a swirl, it unveils a palette of bewitching spicy aromas of peat moss, blond tobacco, vanilla, nutmeg and sandalwood. The mouthfeel is unctuous and vibrant. The palate impresses with its energy and the swirls of blackberries, candied raspberries, and roasted cherries with cumin and Sichuan pepper. The texture is fine and tight at the same time, velvety with a hint of graphite and a long salty finish expressing the minerality reminiscent of its hillside origins. This 2022 Altagracia is simply the spitting image of its older brother the 2021 Altagracia, with the boldness of youth.

GRAPE SOURCE

88% Cabernet Sauvignon
4% Cabernet Franc
8% Petit Verdot
Eisele Vineyard, Napa Valley

1,316 cases made

Release date: February 12, 2025