

2021 EISELE VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

WINEGROWING INFORMATION

The start of the 2021 vintage was reminiscent of 2018, with low cumulative rainfall during dormancy and warmer than average temperatures, leading to budbreak on April 1st. This trend continued in the Spring, with the lowest rainfall recorded during the period of canopy expansion (March to July). High climatic demand precipitated an early decline in soil moisture, leading to exceptionally early intervention in the vineyard. As expected, the stop of vegetative growth came early and the balance between foliage density and the cluster size was ideal to mitigate potential heat spikes. Seasonable temperatures from mid-July to mid-August produced optimum conditions for veraison. The ensuing ripening period was intense with a first heat event in August and a second in September. While the accumulation of sugar slowed down, the berry size remained consistent thanks to misting and canopy management. A long maturation period ensued, similar to 2016 and 2019, producing optimum ripeness of the skins. The dry farmed Cabernets were harvested on September 3rd. The Paloma 1 block adjacent to Simmons Creek was picked on September 16th and the Piedras 1 block on the volcanic hillsides concluded our harvest on September 30th.

The excellent ripeness level of the skins allowed a classic protocol of extraction with a slightly longer maceration to reveal the essence of the fruit. This 2021 vintage was aged for 21 months in a combination of new French oak barrels (70%) and new Austrian oak foudres (30%) for a savory expression of dark fruit and floral notes with a spicy lift.

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

TASTING NOTES

The 2021 Eisele Vineyard Cabernet is a magnificent and vibrant vintage with great natural concentration from small yields in the vineyard. With a swirl, expressive notes of wilted roses and violets spring from the glass, followed by a dark bouquet of black currant and boysenberries with a hint of cinnamon, cardamon and blond tobacco. The mouthfeel brings exceptionally silky and racy tannins with wonderful tension and energy. The tight-knit texture combines with the freshness of floral and mineral notes in this true expression of the Eisele Vineyard terroir. There is a natural refinement and harmony in this wine, hinting at an exceptional ageing potential. A haute couture nectar and a gift from nature!

GRAPE SOURCE

100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Eisele Vineyard, Napa Valley

1,168 cases made

Release date: June 5th, 2024