

INK GRADE



2022 NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

The Ink Grade Estate Vineyard claims a magical view unknown to most in the Napa Valley, high in the northeast corner of the Howell Mountain AVA. Terraced throughout, due to the extreme slopes, this mountainside vineyard clings to volcanic “tufa” soils. Ink Grade Estate possesses a raw tension that renders fruit of immense intensity and depth. If ever there was a site that imparted a feeling of reverence, Ink Grade is such a place.

THE WINEMAKER

Winemaker Matt Taylor learned winemaking from legends like Rod Berglund at Joseph Swan and Jacques Seysses at Domaine Dujac. Also made stellar wines at Araujo Estate/Eisele Vineyard. Taylor brings a passion for the rhythms of biodynamic farming and a reverence for what the land wants the wine to be, not the winemaker

AN ELEVATED EXPRESSION OF MOUNTAIN CABERNET SAUVIGNON

The varying and distinctive landscape of the parcels meticulously selected for our Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon offer a wine of complexity and incredible breadth. Incorporating a portion of Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, this wine possesses bright acidity and structured mountain tannins, distinct in its ability to be enjoyed at a youthful stage.

VINTAGE HIGHLIGHTS

It is our goal at Ink Grade to capture this vineyard's freshness and grace in our wines. We prune for low yields and work hard in the vineyard so that the fruit is ready to pick on the early side. And in September 2022, that was so critical. Even at our altitude, we were able to bring in all our grapes before the 10-day extreme heat event that effectively stopped ripening throughout the valley.

AVA: Napa Valley (80% Napa Valley, 20% Howell Mountain)

VARIETAL COMPOSITION:

93% Cab Sauv, 5% Merlot, 1% Cab Franc, 1% Petit Verdot

AGING: Upright oak casks for 6 mo, then a mixture of oval oak casks, 600L, 500L and 228L barrels for 24 months

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

VINEYARD BLOCK: Langoustine, Buddha's Belly, La Chavanette, Terraces, Pump House, Tenderloin, Upward Descent, Lone Basin, Bear Bluff, Third Circle, Prophet's Water, Lost Clouds

PRODUCTION: 5,000 9L cases



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