

Winemaker Tasting Notes

2011 MALK FAMILY VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON STAGS LEAP DISTRICT OF NAPA VALLEY

The 2011 Malk Family Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon is an incredibly interesting wine and certainly a product of a vintage that leans itself far more to a fall in Bordeaux than a hot and dry October in the Napa Valley. The 2011 vintage was one that was quite different than most we experience in Northern California. The moderate growing season quickly cooled off in September and even gave us a little precipitation in October. Normally, these are the months that really push the vines and clusters to the limit and result in the rather ripe character of Napa Valley Cabernet. In 2011, we are provided with a wine that has much more restraint and many of the attributes found in classic Bordeaux or Old World wines. The first aromas from the glass are filled with mint, sage, plum, licorice and cedar. As the wine opens, more mineral notes of granite and graphite are noticed with light underlying tones of sweet vanilla and allspice. The palate is smooth upon entry and for those who have long called for lower alcohol and more finessed wines, this more gentle approach on the palate will be greatly appreciated. That being said, the wine's presence is impressive and lingers on the palate long after the initial sip. It finishes with grace and elegance and is sure to continue to improve for many years in the cellar.

PRODUCTION NOTES:

- Winemaker: Robbie Meyer
- Production: 238 cases
- Griffin Vineyard
- Stags Leap District of Napa Valley
- 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
- Harvested in October 2011
- Hand sorted
- 25 day maceration,
- Native yeast and natural malolactic
- 20 months in French oak; 75% new
- Bottled in April 2014
- Released Fall 2014
- Wine Enthusiast Score: 90

