

2017 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

AVA: Oakville

Vineyard: Beckstoffer Missouri Hopper

Winemaker: Jeff Ames

Cooperage: 22 Months French Oak, Taransaud and Darnajou

Beckstoffer Missouri Hopper – One of Napa Valley's oldest vineyards, Beckstoffer Missouri Hopper yields ripe fruit full of balance and power. Perfectly trellised vines soak up morning fog from the San Pablo Bay, while the robust foliage of the vines protect growing clusters from summer heat. Today, the vineyard is plated with some of the valley's most preeminent Cabernet and Merlot clones.

Oakville AVA – Lying along the valley floor, Napa Valley's Oakville AVA brings the best of climate, soil and topography to wine growing. Beyond terroir, Oakville is lined with family-owned vineyards, meticulous farmers and winemakers. Fertile soils promote world-class grape growing conditions, while warm summers and dry, cool autumns are perfect for Cabernet Sauvignon.

Vintage Notes – Heavy winter rainfall in 2017 pulled vines out of their years-long drought leading to significant vegetative growth in the vineyards. Extreme heat spikes occurred throughout the summer, resulting in smaller clusters with extreme flavor concentration. As fall cooled, ripening slowed, allowing grapes to mature with excellent aromatics, great acidity and intense flavor

Wine Maker Notes – To stand out among the lineup of 2017 Cabernets is a Herculean achievement for any wine. The Hopper delivers and then some. A full and permeating bouquet of Christmas spice, black fruits and dried strawberry are wrapped in roasted cocoa bean and black mission fig aromas. The palate is laced with a similar combination of fruits but with enticing vanilla bean and lead undertones. This wine is layered and structured perfectly. We recommend a hearty decanting if enjoyed in the first few years. At the 8 to 10-year mark, we will see this wine further developing and hitting stride. A legend in the making.