

# 2014 RUTHERFORD BENCH RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

This dark red wine has aromas of black licorice, peppercorn and dried fruit leather flowing into notes of vanilla and cinnamon. On the palate, the earthy richness gives way to a Bordeaux-inspired red cherry and peppercorn rolling into vanilla, baking spice, and cigar box, all pulled together by the velvety texture and substantial body that make this wine uniquely Rutherford.

## HARVEST & WINEMAKING

Harvest 2014 started with the scare of drought. Luckily, some perfectly timed spring rain helped develop nice vineyard canopies to protect the fruit from heat. Likely due to the dry winter, we had an early bloom and an even earlier ripening than 2013. Not only that, we had one of the largest earthquakes in decades rock the valley on the eve of harvest. Undeterred, but with many vintners picking up the pieces of broken barrels and spilled wine, harvest 2014 charged on with perfect, mild weather through the end of the growing season. This led to high quality grapes and even higher quality wine that we can't wait to share.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

As with Bordeaux wines, we suggest laying this wine down 2-3 years before drinking. Wine will age up to 15 years.

#### **GRAPES:**

The fruit for this wine comes partly from the original estate property at Sequoia Grove, a vineyard planted in the mid-1990s to all five Bordeaux varietals, and partly from our newer estate property, Tonella Vineyard.

## **WINE STATS**

Cases produced: 1268
Alcohol: 14.4%
TA: 5.8 g/L
pH: 3.79

Blend: 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Cabernet Franc, 6% Merlot, and 3% Petit Verdot

Appellation: Rutherford, Napa Valley

Oak: Aged 22 months in French oak, 65% new

Price: \$75

Harvested: October 2014 Bottled: May 2016 Released: December 2017