

2016 Morisoli-Borges Cabernet Sauvignon

Rutherford, Napa Valley



Varietal Composition	86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Petit Verdot
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Appellation	Rutherford Napa Valley
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Harvest	September 2016
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Technical Data	ALC: 14.7% by vol.; TA: 6.4 g/L; pH: 3.67
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Cooperage	100% French Oak Barrels (40% New)
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Production	189 Cases
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The 2016 Vintage

Bud break arrived early this year as we had signs of bud break around Valentines day and it was a much cooler and foggy season up until August. We didn't get the outrageous high heat in July, August or September, which provided for a longer hang time for the grapes. Overall, quality is high even though we fought off some botrytis pressure. The grapes ripened uniformly and calmly at their own pace, while yields were a tad higher, mostly because we added some new pruning techniques, the flavors are phenomenal. The harvest was smooth and progressed from in its own dimension some varieties sooner than others but mostly because of lower yields in Bordeaux's. For the white wines, they are crisp and allow you to taste the coolness of the season. It was interesting some of the grapes—from the cooler areas of Carneros compared to the warmer parts of St. Helena—were harvested at the same time.

About The Vineyard

Morisoli-Borges vineyard is located on the west side of Hwy 29, south of Niebaum lane in Rutherford, Napa Valley. The Morisoli family started farming in Napa Valley in the 1950's and purchased this vineyard in 1971, third generation grower, Mike Morisoli, continues to farm the historic vineyard in the heart of Rutherford. The soils are derived from alluvium and igneous rocks. The characteristics of Cabernet Sauvignon from this great vineyard are a layer of elegant fruits, velvety tannins that melt on the palate, and an incredible balance that makes the wine stand by itself.

Winemaking

The grapes for this wine were hand harvested in the early morning and quickly brought to the winery. The fruit was hand-sorted, all the way down to individual berries. Grapes were placed in two different Cabernet Sauvignon grapes were placed into small capacity temperature controlled fermentation tanks, for an initial 3 day cold soak. Petit Verdot grapes was placed in 500 liter puncheon. The Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot grapes were placed in two different types of fermentation vessels - open top fermenters (70%) and 500 liter French oak puncheons (30%). They underwent a three day cold soak. Fermentation, in the puncheons, lasted 24 days and the slow extraction of oak enhanced the body and added depth to the finished wine. In the stainless steel fermenters, grapes fermented for 35 days, with twice a day pumpovers and 3 delestage to intensify the fruit, soften the tannins and stabilize the color. The wine completed secondary fermentation and was aged for 22 months in 100% new French oak barrels, using 40% new oak. During the final blending process 13% of Petit Verdot from the same vineyard was added to lengthen and soften the tannins giving them a nice velvety texture while adding fruit and complexity.

Tasting Notes

The fruit from this pedigreed Rutherford vineyard results in a complex wine that is aged in French oak barrels for twenty months. It offers great aromatic concentration of black currant and plum. On the palate the wine is beautifully balanced with flavors of dark cherry, blackberry and a hint of spice. The bright layers of fruit combine with well-integrated oak nuances for a wonderfully, long finish. Only 189 cases were produced.

Artesa Vineyards & Winery 1345 Henry Rd, Napa, CA 94559 T 707 224 1668 artesawinery.com

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