



SOCIETY OF SMUGGLERS

2017 LEFT BANK

VINTAGE: Ninth

COMPOSITION: 91% Cabernet Sauvignon,
7% Malbec, 2% Petit Verdot

APPELLATION: Coombsville AVA, Napa Valley

VINEYARD: Caldwell Vineyard and Upper Range

OPTIMAL DRINKING PERIOD: 2–6 Years

PRODUCTION: 320 Cases

PRICE: \$95 / 750ml sos only

BLOCK: Caldwell 15, 16, 17, 18 and Upper Range F12

YIELD: 3.0 Tons per Acre on Average

AVERAGE VINE AGE: 23 Years

GRAPE VARIETIES: See Composition Section

CLONES: Multiple

ROOTSTOCK: Multiple

HARVEST DATES: Multiple

VINTAGE SUMMARY: The 2017 growing season started with a wet winter and early spring unprecedented in recent history, closer in relation to 1995, 1998, and 2011. The mild spring conditions extended flowering, and provided limited fruit shatter and good set. High temperatures for a few days in early and mid-July accelerated veraison in reds, and pushed whites into accelerated sugar accumulation. Three pre-veraison heat spikes early in June and July started early phenolic precursor production and shifted hormonal pressures in our vines to concentrate on ripening fruit early. Two heat spikes in late August and early September ravaged young vine blocks, but had very little effect on older vines and those with larger canopies providing better protection from the sun. Ultimately, 2017 will be characterized as a ripe, opulent, and very tannic year with a relatively short growing season due to the tragic fires that began on October 8th.

FERMENTATION: Stainless and French Oak Barrels

YEAST: Multiple

ML BACTERIA: Multiple

WOOD ORIGIN: New French Oak (Jupilles, Bercé)

AGING: 100% French Oak, 80% New, for 18 Months

FINING: None

FILTERING: Filtered

ALCOHOL: 14.8%

BOTTLED ON: May 14, 2019

WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES: 2017 Caldwell Left Bank screams classic Coombsville Cabernet with electric blueberry, boysenberry, and red cassis. Compared to its Right Bank sibling, the Left Bank is more acute and tighter with secondary aromatics of dried earth, menthol, and dark chocolate. The tight-knit palate leads with an attack of blueberry and blackberry which lingers on for minutes, surrounded by layer upon layer of powerful, superfine tannins.