



SOCIETY OF SMUGGLERS

2016 RIGHT BANK RED

VINTAGE: Eighth

COMPOSITION: 46% Merlot, 21% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc, 11% Malbec, 5% Petit Verdot, 1% Syrah, 1% Tannat

APPELLATION: Coombsville AVA, Napa Valley

VINEYARD: Caldwell Vineyard Estate, Established 1981

OPTIMAL DRINKING PERIOD: 2–8 Years

PRODUCTION: 380 Cases

PRICE: \$95 / 750ml SOS Only

BLOCK: Caldwell 8, 10, 14, 15, 17, 18

YIELD: 2.5 Tons per Acre on Average

AVERAGE VINE AGE: 24 Years

GRAPE VARIETIES: See Composition Section

CLONES: Multiple

ROOTSTOCK: Multiple

HARVEST DATES: Multiple

VINTAGE SUMMARY: The 2016 growing season started with a normal winter, and normal bud break in March. Subsequent warm but unsettled weather brought good uniformity and set. Hot spikes in July prompted a speedy but even veraison in reds, and early sugar accumulation in whites. Cool, ideal ripening weather prevailed from August through the start of September. A heat wave at the end of September and three rain storms in the early part of October made for disparate ripening circumstances, resulting in diverse choices on pick timing. Ultimately, 2016 will be characterized as a high-sugar, high-tannin year. Brix was high relative to physiological maturity in both red and white varietals. Additionally, red grape skin tannins were firmer, and the resulting juice yielded more structural tannins than usual. Normal berry sizes and larger-than-normal clusters resulted in normal-to-above-normal vineyard yields.

FERMENTATION: Stainless and French Oak Barrels

YEAST: Natural

ML BACTERIA: Natural

WOOD ORIGIN: New French Oak (Allier, Tronçais, Vosges)

AGING: 100% French Oak, 100% New, for 17 Months

FINING: None

FILTERING: Filtered

ALCOHOL: 14.9%

BOTTLED ON: April 24, 2018

WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES: An evolving nose of black cherry, red currant, rose petals, sage, white pepper, oregano and cigar box. A black cherry attack leads to a full mouth of cranberry, red currant, pomegranate, green bell pepper, and espresso. Sweet, cocoa-structured tannins give way to a cherry stone finish.