

Cabernet Franc

2021

Vintage:	Eleventh
Composition:	99% Cabernet Franc 1% Cabernet Sauvignon
Clones:	214, 332, and 312
Appellation:	Coombsville, Napa Valley, CA
Vineyard:	Caldwell Vineyard Estate, Established 1981
Vineyard Blocks:	Caldwell Blocks 10, 15 and 17
Yield:	3.0 Tons per Acre on Average
Average Vine Age:	30 Years
Grape Varieties:	See Composition Section
Rootstock:	Multiple
Harvest Date:	Multiple

Vintage Summary: The 2021 Vintage can be classified as a severe drought year here in Napa Valley. With only 7.3" of rain from January to March, bud break was early, and bloom had higher stress than typical – leading to a smaller crop. Currently, I'm drawing comparisons in the cellar to the 2015 vintage, but with much less heat towards the end of the growing season, helping retain freshness and varietal expression and individuality. Overall, a very high-quality vintage (if you had water to irrigate with, which we luckily did), I foresee the vintage to be known for its structure, freshness, and long-term age-ability.

Fermentation:	Stainless Steel
Yeast:	Multiple
ML Bacteria:	Multiple
Wood Origin:	French Oak (Jupilles, Bercé)
Aging:	100% French Oak, 75% New, for 22 Months
Fining:	None
Filtering:	None
Alcohol:	15.2%
Bottling Date:	July 24, 2023

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: Our Cabernet Franc here at Caldwell is something special that surprises us almost every year. Being where we are in Coombsville, the year-to-year variability can be quite large, and Cabernet Franc can come in as low as 23 Brix and as high as 28 Brix, depending on vintage. But with each year, and each respective style, the wines always turn out wonderful. The 2021 Cabernet Franc is opulent and more open-knit, with loads of dark chocolate, savory, baking spices, violets, and mottled earth. Dried leaf is lifted from Block 15, while the dark fruit intensity, cola, and sassafras come from Block 17. Broadly textured, with sweet EtOH, the retronasal varietal character is wonderfully potent, especially on the long, luxurious finish.

Optimal Drinking Period:	Now –15 Years
Production:	167 Cases
Price:	\$175 / 750ml

