

2022  
LEFT BANK  
RED

CALDWELL  
[38° 17' N. Latitude, 122° 14' W. Longitude]

## SOCIETY OF SMUGGLERS

### 2022 LEFT BANK by Caldwell, Napa Valley

**VINTAGE:** Thirteenth

**COMPOSITION:** 97% Cabernet Sauvignon  
2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Carménère

**APPELLATION:** Coombsville AVA, Napa Valley, CA

**VINEYARD:** Caldwell Vineyard, Kreuzer Vineyard

**OPTIMAL DRINKING PERIOD:** Now – 15 Years

**PRODUCTION:** 302 Cases

**PRICE:** \$115 / 750ml SOS Only

**VINEYARD BLOCKS:** Caldwell 9, 11, 18 and 20

**YIELD:** 3.0 Tons per Acre on Average

**AVERAGE VINE AGE:** 34 Years

**GRAPE VARIETIES:** See Composition Section

**CLONES:** Multiple

**HARVEST DATES:** Multiple

**FERMENTATION VESSEL:** Stainless Steel

**WOOD ORIGIN:** New French Oak (Jupilles, Bercé)

**AGING:** 100% French Oak, 75% New, for 20 Months

**VINTAGE SUMMARY:** Coming off yet another drought year in 2021, 2022 started early and was warm to hot throughout the vintage. Whites kicked off with Sauvignon Blanc in August, but Chardonnay took its time ripening, as we had an excellent crop. The window between whites and reds was nonexistent, with Malbec coming to the winery only 2 days after Chardonnay. Since the heat provided plenty of ripeness, reds kept rolling in despite the rain and we didn't finish harvest of the old vines in Block 11 until October 27th. One of the most unique vintages in history, 2022 really was two harvests: one before the long, triple-digit week in September, and one after the rains in late September. Luckily Coombsville only hit 105F, whereas up valley some regions hit 120F for days in a row, devastating the crops. The extreme weather pattern variation was incredibly site specific, and only the terroirs best able to withstand the heat will deliver incredible wines.

**FINING:** None

**FILTERING:** Unfiltered

**ALCOHOL:** 15.1%

**BOTTLED ON:** May 28, 2024

**WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES:** As our homage to the west side of Bordeaux, every year I aim to blend the Caldwell Left Bank to retain a certain minerality and austere youthful intensity that I find in the wines of Pessac-Léognan and Pauillac. The predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon blend is from some of our oldest vines, which provide some restraint, and what John and I like to call a "Bordeaux" feel. 2022 Left Bank stands out as a sort of anomaly in the club lineup this vintage, due to the hearty resilience of the old vines that went into it. These vines, which typically only achieve 22 Brix or so in a typical year, were able to hit highs of 24 Brix in 2022 due to the heat. Actually, in order to bring the more "Bordeaux" style to this wine, we used a more vigorous section of clone 191 from Block 18. Predominately on the dark black spectrum, with superbly integrated oak, the 2022 Left Bank shows a freshness and purity not commonly found in the vintage.