

2022
RIGHT BANK
RED

CALDWELL
(38° 17' N. Latitude, 122° 14' W. Longitude)

SOCIETY OF SMUGGLERS

2022 RIGHT BANK by Caldwell, Napa Valley

VINTAGE: Thirteenth

COMPOSITION: 52% Merlot, 47% Cabernet Franc, 1% Cabernet Sauvignon

APPELLATION: Coombsville AVA, Napa Valley, CA

VINEYARD: Caldwell Vineyard

OPTIMAL DRINKING PERIOD: 2 – 15 Years

PRODUCTION: 302 Cases

PRICE: \$115 / 750ml SOS Only

VINEYARD BLOCKS:
Caldwell 3, 10, 11, 14, and 17

YIELD: 3.0 Tons per Acre on Average

AVERAGE VINE AGE: 35 Years

GRAPE VARIETIES: See Composition Section

CLONES: Multiple

ROOTSTOCK: Multiple

HARVEST DATES: Multiple

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.

FERMENTATION VESSEL: Stainless and French Oak

WOOD ORIGIN: New French Oak (Jupilles, Bercé)

AGING: 100% French Oak, 77% New, for 20 Months

FINING: None

FILTERING: Unfiltered

ALCOHOL: 15%

BOTTLED ON: June 6, 2024

WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES: The SOS Right Bank is always designed to be more open-knit and approachable in its youth, and the 2022 fits exactly that, but with slightly more tension than I remember the 2021s having. Dusty raspberry with a slightly electric blackberry note, this wine is layered with some turpentic qualities and softly integrated oak. The heavy dose of Cabernet Franc and the 1% Cabernet Sauvignon provide structure, but the wine is generally carried by the old vine Merlot, which now stands at 43 years old.