

2018 STAR LANE CABERNET FRANC STAR LANE VINEYARD, HAPPY CANYON OF SANTA BARBARA



ALCOHOL
14.1%

AGED
22 months

OAK
30% New French

HARVESTED
October 2018

BOTTLED
June 2020

CELLAR LIFE
20+ years

VINTAGE

2018 followed in the footsteps of our 2017 Star Lane Vintage. We experienced another winter with lighter rainfall, transitioning into the Santa Barbara County's apparent new norm. Limited cluster counts and a cool spring which impacts fruit set at flowering signified yields would again be restrained to lower than average. The threat of frost damage would prove ephemeral, and the remainder of the season showcased even temperatures producing a consistent and steady ripening pattern and a return to normal vine maturation. Harvest began in long slow breaths, which gave ample time to thoughtfully process the fruit, allowing us to highlight the freshness and aromatics of the season. The clusters having sustained a healthy hang time, developed the classic texture and complexity that Bordeaux-varietal fruit from this vineyard site have become increasingly renowned for.

WINEMAKER NOTES

2018 was a vintage we needed. It provided a reprieve from the variables of heat spells and drought. Steady and mild temperatures throughout the ripening period, the fruit that makes up this blend took its time to mature and allowed us to harvest with a greater sense of energy and suppleness than 2017 or 2016. Star Lane's trademark grippy Cabernet Franc finishing tannins were paired with a bit more mid-palate weight and tension than we'd seen in years. We did use a bit of Cabernet Sauvignon (12%) to prop up the middle – as Cabernet Franc sometimes wants something in the middle to balance its finishing flourish; but overall this is a terrifically pure expression of star Lane Cabernet Franc.

TASTING NOTES

While slightly less herbal than previous years – surprising given it was a cooler year – the aromas overall are dark-fruit oriented if also veiled with youth. At this writing, the real hallmark of the wine is its texture. Full but tense, it is a wonderful show of the pleasant nature of supple wines. Built to last a while but – aside from a tightly wound nose – surprisingly available now. Enjoy!

