



Fluffy Billows

2022 Fluffy Billows Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville, Napa Valley Tech Sheet

Harvest Notes

2022 was the last of three years of drought which was saved by a significant rainfall in April. This rain replenished the soil before a long summer allowing the vines to fully develop their canopy in the Spring, followed by a lengthy Summer of fruit development. Crop level, which is largely determined in the previous year was still very small. It was a relatively long cool summer punctuated by a heat spike a couple weeks before harvest which ushered in the ripe fruit. The harvest was lengthy adding to the complexity of the lots that created this wine.

Tasting Notes

This wine is a balance between restrained alcohol, pronounced acidity and impressive ripeness of fruit; 2022 will be a standout vintage for many years to come. On the palate, interwoven notes of classic Cabernet cassis, blackberry and plum but green pepper and floral tones of Cabernet Franc appear, along with the deep notes of black cherry, sage and lavender from the addition of Petit Verdot. Two years in French Oak have added a complex spice box of flavors, showing cardamom and cinnamon layered in a framework of integrated oak tannins. This vineyard site continually produces wines of great polish and drinkability, making them a joy to open while still young. A joy to drink by itself or can handle spiced dishes such as Moroccan Chicken Tagine, or a simple cheese course. Due to the ripe flavors of the vintage this wine is best enjoyed 5-15 years old.

Winemaking Notes

The Cabernet fruit was hand-picked into macro bins, then sorted and de-stemmed and crushed into stainless steel tanks. Cold soaking was carried out over 24 hours, and the must was inoculated and pumped over one to three times per day, then pressed before finishing primary fermentation. Once dry, the wine was racked to barrel and inoculated for malolactic fermentation. It was racked again at the conclusion of secondary fermentation and twice more before bottling. Though it was filtered, owing to its time in barrel, fining was not necessary.

Fluffy Billows Cabernet 2022 Tech:

Harvest Date: September 16th to October 20th
Varietals: 91% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot
Barrel Age: 22 months; 60% new French Oak, 40% neutral oak
Appellation: Oakville, Napa Valley
Bottled: August 28th, 2024
Bottle Size: 750ml
Production: 578 cases
Alcohol: 13.1%
Total Acidity: 5.1g/L
pH: 3.72