

VASO

2017 VASO by Dana Estates Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

VINTAGE

The 2017 growing season started with a wet winter filling reservoirs and replenishing the soils. The spring was moderate leading to a slightly later budbreak at the beginning of April. The dry and warm weather resulted in a large healthy canopy due to adequate soil moisture. The large canopy dried the soil rapidly early in the season setting the vines up to produce smaller, thicker skinned berries. Harvest began early and rapidly accelerated due to heat waves in August and September. Thankfully, the thick skins and careful water management allowed the fruit to weather the heat spells that characterized the 2017 vintage. The extreme heat caused the vines to halt ripening, leading to lower brix levels at harvest. Thus, the wines from 2017 have rich fruit and structure from the dry spring, but also a finesse and brightness reminiscent of cooler vintages.

HARVEST

The core of our 2017 VASO blend comes from our Crystal Springs Vineyard on the western facing hills of the Vaca Range. Our philosophy of minimal intervention in the vineyard and winery has resulted in a slow progression to dry farming. The results are balanced vines that produce small intensely flavored berries with thick, darkly colored skins. Harvest of Cabernet Sauvignon started on September 13th in Crystal Springs. Helms was picked next on September 13th, with three more picks during the last week of September. On September 20th the Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, and Malbec were all harvested from our Hershey Vineyard on top of Howell Mountain. Our last blocks were harvested on October 4th, from our Lotus Vineyard and the remaining blocks at Helms.

METHOD

We used various fermentation vessels to harness the complexity of our sites including oak upright tanks, single barrel fermentations, and concrete tanks. After undergoing native fermentation, the free run juice is drained directly to barrel for native malolactic fermentation and aging, not being touched again until blending in early Spring.

SENSORY

The 2017 VASO Cabernet Sauvignon is a true representation of the warm vintage with rich fruit on the palate and a bright, focused acidity. This wine showcases the different terroirs and varietals in the Cabernet-based blend with fragrances of blackberry, vanilla, and dark chocolate with hints of toasted oak. The entry has flavors of cherry and ripe plum, and fresh red fruit that is perfectly balanced with the bright acidity. The soft tannins in this full bodied wine are centrally located and linger with the long finish. This vibrant wine is approachable now and will continue to develop as the years pass.

STATISTICS

Appellation | Napa Valley

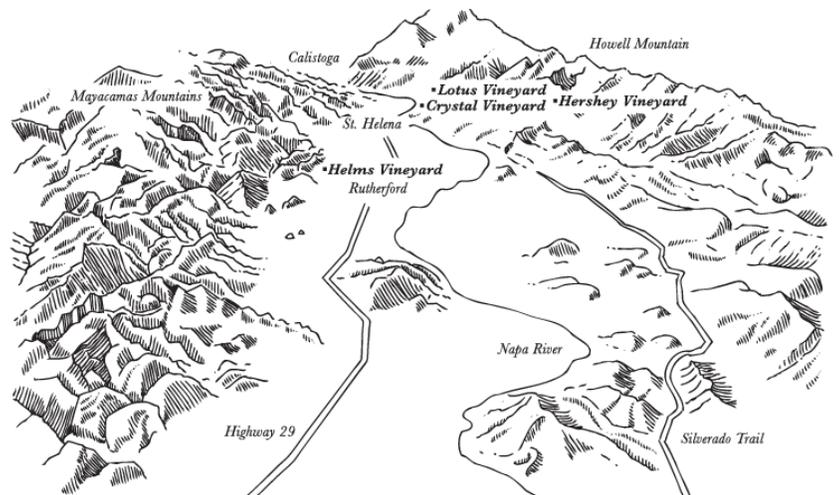
Blend | 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Petit Verdot, 4% Malbec, 4% Cabernet Franc, 2% Merlot

Élevage | 23 months in 29% new French oak

Coopers | Ermitage, Taransaud, Baron, Demptos, Sylvain, Artisan

Alcohol | 14.9% **pH** | 3.77 **TA** | 6.0 g/L

Bottling Date | September 3rd, 2019



VASO Cellars

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