

2021 Fountaingrove District Cabernet Sauvignon

2021 Fountaingrove Cabernet is the third release in our Cabernet-producing era at Donelan Family Wines. We're thrilled with the progress and craft embodied by this vintage, which is 95% Cabernet, 5% Cab Franc, and a marriage of fruit from our own Obsidian Estate and two gorgeous sites in the Fountaingrove District. Cabernet is fairly new to our portfolio. After the 2017 Tubbs Fire damaged our Obsidian Estate vineyard, we replanted, increasing vine density and planting varieties beyond our signature Syrah. This was when we put a Donelan flag down in the Cabernet world. While our Obsidian Cab began growing, we pinpointed additional Cabernet sites to explore.

Our 2021 Fountaingrove Cabernet is made from Obsidian Estate Cabernet and Cab Franc picked in early October, fermented with native yeast, and showing classic dark fruit and luscious tannin. We sourced additional Cabernet from a vintner friend who oversees an interesting property right on the Napa/Sonoma County line where topsoil is scarce among the orange volcanic ground. The vineyard was planted in 1998 and produces shy-baring fruit that's supple with round, fine-grained tannin. Our third site is a family-run estate winery on the back side of Spring Mountain. The pocket canyon was planted in the early aughts at high density to a mix of French clones and heritage selections from top Napa vineyards. We picked this Cabernet right before a rainstorm on our last day of the 2021 harvest. Generous hang time created wonderful balance between sugar and acid. Fans of our 2018 and 2019 Cabernet are familiar with the high-quality wines that are made from the Western-facing slope.

On the nose, our 2021 Cabernet flaunts the pretty side of Cab with loamy notes, lavender, kirsch, and sweet pipe tobacco. The darker profile lives on the palate in fresh waves of cacao, black olive, sweet browned butter, and coriander. This wine evokes delightful winter-time spices and holiday scents. With great acidity and mouth-coating tannin, it would stand up well with rich Beef Bourguignon or braised short ribs. If you're enjoying this Cabernet soon, double-decant it or drink it over several nights. Otherwise, this wine will age well over the next 15 years.

97 Points, Decanter

"Superbly fresh aromatics of black currants, spicebush, fresh sage, and expressive cedarwood aromatics. Full-bodied with concentrated pure black cherry and saline-scented blackberry fruits, nuanced by a herbal, tobacco-tinged lift from the Cabernet Franc planted at their estate Obsidian Vineyard."

Cellar Notes:

Percentage New Oak

57%

Barrel Aging

22 months

Bottling Date

August 2023

Composition

95% Cabernet Sauvignon

5% Cabernet Franc

Alcohol

14.6%

Production

168 cases

