



SARACINA BIG SHOT VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2015

Vintage Information

Mendocino County 2015
Production of 150 cases

Varietal Composition

100% Cabernet Sauvignon

Bottling Date

July 26, 2017

Technical Data

14.9% alcohol by volume
0.64 gm/100 ml titratable acidity
pH 3.69

Release Date

January 1, 2018

Vineyards

The “Big Shot” for whom this vineyard is named, is John Fetzer’s brother, Joe Fetzer. Baby brother Joe is a winegrower and considered one of the pioneers in Mendocino County grape growing. Joe’s vineyard, located on a hillside overlooking Saracina Ranch, lives up to its name. Ruggedly terraced on a steep, southeast facing slope, it makes a bold statement. But Joe has a soft side, as does the vineyard, which avoids the intense late afternoon sun, thus preserving the Bordeaux varietal character by allowing the requisite hang-time that an outstanding Cabernet requires.

Harvest

The harvest of 2015 reflects the last of the drought years, with the lowest berry and cluster weights we have ever recorded at this block. We harvested at dawn on September 25, with an average of 25.2 brix, but only after John’s brother Joe gave us the call to pick. He called it perfectly.

Winemaking and Cooperage

The grapes were destemmed into an open top fermenter, and native yeast fermentation began six days later. We punched down by hand, and at dryness drained the free-run juice directly into French Taransaud barrels, 15% new. Native malolactic fermentation was complete by late February. The wine remained in barrel on fine lees for 20 months. We racked it, immediately prior to bottling, on July 26, 2017.

Winemaker Alex MacGregor

Winemaker’s Comments

Deep garnet in color, this wine has aromas of black fruits, cedar, and sage which complement the dusty herb and earth flavors in this poised and elegant vintage of our Cabernet Sauvignon. There is plenty of soft tannin and acidity to go around, but this will easily drink well in its relative youth with the right food pairing. A pot roast with freshly grated horseradish and roasted root vegetables would pair well with this beautiful wine.