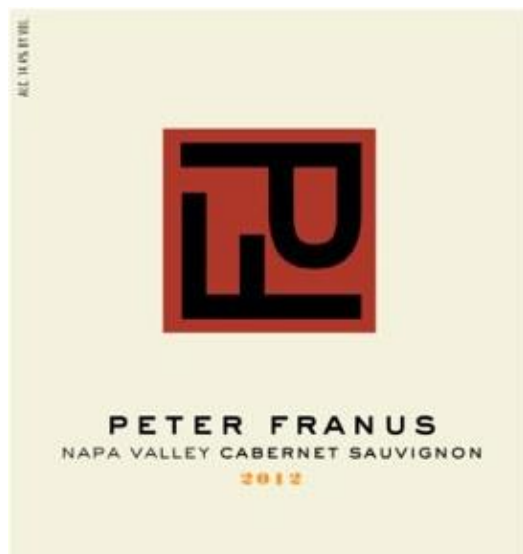


2012 PETER FRANUS NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON



Vineyards: Taplin Road – St. Helena
Howell Mountain
Truchard - Carneros

Composition: 90% Cabernet Sauvignon
10% Cabernet Franc

Harvest Dates: Oct. 3, 23, & 30, 2012

Fermentation: 10 days average, up to 82°

Oak aging: 18 months
100% French Oak
64% new

Bottling Date: May 7, 2014

Production: 925 cases 750ml
25 cases 1.5L

TA 0.59 g/100 ml pH 3.78 lc. 14.5 % RS 0.22 g/L CALIFORNIA RETAIL PRICE \$48

Hard to believe, but I have produced wine in Napa Valley for over 30 years—mind-boggling sometimes when I think of it! In every year of those three decades, I have made a Cabernet Sauvignon. As a result, I have had the good fortune develop great relationships with the best growers in the valley. That led me to two phenomenal vineyards—both certified organic—that are now the sources of my Cabernet Sauvignon.

Howell Mountain needs little introduction. Located in the northeast corner of Napa Valley, the red wines from the region are typically powerful, muscular, and intense. Although many choose to bottle 100% Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon on its own, I think it best serves as the backbone of a wine. Let me introduce Taplin Road.

Joseph Phelps and Heitz are legends in Napa Valley. They are on Taplin Road. Nudged between them is my eastern hillside vineyard—clone 341—offering grapes with amazing charm and elegance—the perfect foil to Howell Mountain. For me, the combination offers the great harmony and balance I seek in all of my wines.

Cabernet Franc requires a cool climate to develop its enticing and exotic aromatics with the appropriate acidity and backbone. Truchard Vineyard in northern Carneros is happy to accommodate! The 10% in the blend tightens the backbone of the wine while offering another dimension in the aroma profile.

As you most likely know, after three challenging vintages, we were rewarded with excellent growing conditions in 2012. Fantastic wines, pretty much across the board.

Our 2011 Cabernet met with enthusiastic response, and we anticipate the same for the 2012. Dark ruby in color, aromas lean toward red fruit—black cherry and plum—made more complex by sweet oak and hints of clove. The structure is firm with appropriate acidity, distinguishing itself from the “ponderous pack.” Ripe tannins are apparent, but disappear seamlessly into the background. This wine continues to grow each time I open a bottle, suggesting wonderful development and great longevity.

Our 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon celebrates the freshness, purity, and elegance we are capable of in Napa Valley, and offers the style of wine we love to drink!