

TOR

N A P A V A L L E Y

CIMAROSSA CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2016

VINEYARD “Cimarossa” means ‘red hill top’ in Italian, which aptly defines this very special hillside vineyard, planted on a volcanic cinder cone. The elevation is 2,100 feet, and the soils are predominantly red volcanic rock and dust. Not much can be cultivated on these steep hills besides vines and some olive trees (which produce my favorite California olive oil). This is a special place: the clusters are small, the berries are tiny, but the flavors are BIG!

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WINEMAKING The Cimarossa Cabernet in 2016 is the result of lower yields on our block of clone 7 but with perfect ripeness and tannin development. This is never a long ferment for us and wasn't again in 2016. This was a normal 13-day fermentation after which it was put down to 100% Darnajou barrels. This is actually the only wine that we make that uses a single barrel cooper which we started doing in 2006.

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WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES The 2016 Cimarossa Cabernet continues the lineage we been developing for 15 years. This is a true Howell Mountain Cabernet. It is not to drink immediately, it demands and deserves your full attention. This is a wine of structure, immense depth and richness that will age and improve for years. It is all about black fruits, smoke, slow-cooked meats and mouth-filling richness. This is a wine to savor with the best of friends over a decadent meal.

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VINTAGE To put it simply – this was one of our great modern vintages in the Napa Valley. It almost had a Bordeaux feeling to it – moderate rainfall for all but three months before the real rains arrived in October. By then, everything was in the barn. No significant heat spikes, which made for a very long, even growing season. I have only one complaint with our vineyard sites – I wish I had more grapes to harvest. Cluster size and weights were down, and we were 20% off average when we finished picking. It was one of those years when everything lined-up; you couldn't help but wish for more grapes. Spectacular quality, both reds and whites. The wines have deep colors, structure, concentration, and depth of flavor.

CASES PRODUCED: 200

