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N A P A V A L L E Y

HERB LAMB VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

2015

VINEYARD The Herb Lamb Vineyard is located in a remarkable canyon area down Mund Road. It lies below the Howell Mountain appellation line yet above the St. Helena appellation line. There are three distinct areas within the Herb Lamb vineyard-upper, middle, lower. It is the middle section that gets the most sunlight because of its position on the hill and its relation to the tree line. It is this middle/tenderloin section where we source our Cabernet. The Herb Lamb vineyard has a history of producing some of the most distinct wines in the Napa Valley.

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WINEMAKING The 2015 Herb Lamb Vineyard Cabernet was fermented in a single closed top tank for about 14 days. The goal on this wine was not maximum extraction but rather to best express the singular profile of this historic vineyard. In order to achieve this, we did no more than two pump-overs a day and had a maximum fermentation temperature of 86 degrees. Following completion of the primary fermentation, the wine was put down to new Taransaud barrels where it stayed for 18 months until being bottled unfinned and unfiltered.

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WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES The Herb Lamb Cabernet shows the vineyard profile of the Herb Lamb vineyard, but with additional depth and intensity. On the nose there is copious cassis, dark chocolate and unique to this site some hints of bay leaf. The palate is quite dense and rich but seems to be reaching back to an old world profile more so than the rest of the Cabernets. This exhibits more of the Old World flavor profile of Cabernet with hints of charcoal, lavender and bitter sweet chocolate. A beautiful and truly unique expression of Cabernet.

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VINTAGE Over my decades as a Napa vintner I have gained great respect for "drought years." They are yin and yang years, where a farmer has to pay very close attention to each vine. In years like 2015, every vine was pushed to the limit – its access to water, its survival. The survivors make up small crops - that is the "yin." The "yang" is - the quality can be off the charts.

In 2015, we suffered up to 45% losses in several blocks. It was an early start, but cool weather during flowering in May contributed to a less than normal fruit set. The berries that did set were generally much smaller than usual. Once the set was complete, we had warm to very warm conditions up to and through harvest. There was no rush to judgement on when to pick, we had plenty of space at the winery for the short crop, and all the fruit was in before the winter storms started to line up off the coast. Initially, I did not pass judgement on this vintage; but now having tasted all the wines in bottle – it is a great one in all respects.

CASES PRODUCED: 225

