



2012 CABERNET SAUVIGNON OAKVILLE

VINEYARD

The grapes for our 2012 Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon came from our Estate vineyard located in the heart of Oakville. The vineyard consists of 14 individual vineyard blocks ranging from steep hillside terraces, to the flat rocky red soil of the “Oakville Bench” at 400 feet above the valley floor. Five Cabernet Sauvignon clones are planted around the estate, each one giving us a unique aroma and flavor profile to work with when assembling our blends. The Oakville Appellation produces grapes and wine with incredible flavor and concentration. The 2012 growing season gave us late spring rains which helped make up for another dry winter. The resulting wines have balanced acidity, concentration and structure.

WINEMAKING

Gentle fruit handling, small batch fermentations, and attention to detail, describes the way we handle grapes at Vine Cliff. Our grapes are hand picked at night or in the early morning, to give us cold fruit for processing. Individual vineyard blocks are destemmed separately into small stainless steel fermentation tanks. The grapes are cold soaked for days, before the must is warmed and the fermentation initiated. Smaller than usual berries coupled with low juice to skin ratios gave us copious flavor and tannin concentration in 2012. Individual vineyard blocks are fermented and aged separately. Careful evaluation of individual wine lots and meticulous blending enables the finished wine to have its unique, special qualities and express the personality of the vineyard. Our 2012 Oakville blend is 93% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot and was aged in 65% new barrels.

TASTING NOTES

The aroma is lifted with blackberry jam, cherry, and brooding black fruits. Toast, cedar, roasted nuts and hints of molasses, add dimension. The palate has sweet blackberry fruit at entry with hints of raspberry, and lavender. Mocha chocolate and vanilla add complexity to the fleshy black fruits. The mouth feel is rich and full bodied yet is balanced with acidity and youthful polished tannins on the finish.

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