



Rattlesnake

Cabernet Sauvignon

Spring Mountain District

2021

Harvest Date:	October 7 th , 12 th , 13 th , 14 th
Grape Source:	100% Estate Fruit
Blend:	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Aging:	22 months in French Oak Barrels, 14 different coopers, multiple forests, Medium + toast oak, 93% new
Alcohol:	14.9%
Total Production:	57 Barrels
Selection Percent:	Of the potential 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon 33.9% was selected for Rattlesnake.
Release Date:	January 2023
Winemaker:	David Tate

Vineyard & Vintage Notes: Rattlesnake hill is a small rocky knoll on the estate, located at 2050 ft elevation on Spring Mountain. The hill's position allows optimal sun exposure while being above the fog line. Since the inception of this wine in 1991 we have sought out only the very best of our Estate Cabernet Sauvignon on Spring Mountain to complement its complexity. We work diligently in the vineyard and the winery on keeping all our small lots separated. We then examine these lots for complexity, intensity, and power to match the hill. Only these small estate lots that are deserving come together to form our proprietary top tier, Rattlesnake. If there was ever a welcome vintage it was 2021. After the fires on our property in 2020, we sadly dropped all of the fruit to the ground understanding that it would never make ultra-premium wine. 2021 was a new season, with a dry and warm Spring bringing early budbreak and flowering. The hot summer but moderate fall allowed even ripening to produce exceptional fruit for this vintage.

Winemaking Notes: With the hot summer and warm fall many of the small blocks that we pick came in earlier than normal and very close to each other. We typically pick these blocks two weeks later than in 2021. When harvested, the small estate lots were cold soaked for 2-3 days, fermented in small bins and tanks, and punched down or pumped over 2 to 3 times a day. The maceration times were 18 to 22 days. With the 2021 vintage extraction was slow to start. Then by day 7 it seemed all the flavors and tannins began to emerge. Once fermentation was complete the wine was pressed off into 93% new French oak barrels for aging. The wine has been racked three times during its near two-year maturation time in the cellar.

Tasting Notes: The color of the 2021 Rattlesnake is near opaque purple. The nose is very intense, with blackberry pie, caramel, dark roast coffee, cola, and raspberry reduction pouring out of the glass. Under these intense aromatics hides some volcanic minerality and crushed violets. The wine is ultra rich, plush and powerful on the palate. Darker fruit comes out, mostly reduced cassis matched by intense dark chocolate. The tannins are big, chalky, and matched by the famous Spring Mountain acidity. Dark chocolate covered cherries linger on the finish. This is an intense powerful wine that is barely starting to show the myriad of flavors it has to offer 19-20 years (2042-2043).