



## 2019 CABERNET SAUVIGNON Napa Valley

The dynamic aromas of this wine display gorgeous notes of rose, fennel, tar, graphite, earthy loam, dusty cocoa, and bay laurel; as the wine evolves in the glass, the aromas become even more floral and savory. In the mouth, big, bright flavors of this balanced, multi-layered wine enliven the palate, showing structure, density, freshness and nuanced power, and finishing with long, gravelly tannins.

Notes from winemaker Nigel Kinsman, "This classically built Cabernet is slow to reveal itself, but finally shows its core sweetness wound around a mineral structure enhanced by notes of wild chapparal."

## WINEGROWING INFORMATION

The 2019 growing season began with copious rainfall during the winter months that kept temperatures on the cool side and helped saturate soils, refill reservoirs and recharge groundwater basins. Unusually high amounts of rain in May made getting tractors into the vineyards a challenge and delayed budbreak for several weeks. Finally, warmer and drier weather arrived in June and as crews opened up the rapidly growing canopies, the young grape clusters revealed themselves to be a good set. Summer remained sunny but mild and vines ripened their crop without environmental stress during the overall cool season; August finally brought

much needed heat that continued into September, but cool evenings kept acidities fresh, providing excellent conditions for ripening. Our red grape harvest began on September 23rd with Cabernet Sauvignon and finished on October 25th, also with Cabernet Sauvignon. All the grapes were hand-harvested in the cool pre-dawn hours and were brought to the winery in perfect condition for crush. The wines were fermented in stainless steel tanks and aged sur lie in new and used French oak barrels, then bottled on January 26, 2022.



## **ACCOLADES**

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98+<sub>pts</sub>

Libert Carley

"Sourced from six different Napa Valley vineyards and a blend of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot, the 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon from Accendo is a dark, cassis-laden effort tinged with violets and black tea. Full-bodied, rich, velvety and tannic, it shows lovely harmony and structure, ample but not overdone concentration and tremendous length and elegance."

Joe Czerwinski, Wine Advocate, September 2022

98<sub>pts</sub>

vinous

"Accendo's 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon is every bit as alluring as it was from the barrel. Plush and sensual, with no hard edges, the 2019 possesses magnificent balance from start to finish Dark-fleshed fruit, spice, leather, tobacco and menthol build as this sumptuous, racy Cabernet shows off its tremendous charm. Best of all, the 2019 offers a bit of immediacy. I would choose to drink it ahead of some of the more structured recent vintages. As always, the Accendo Cabernet is a blend of several top sites in Napa Valley."

Antonio Galloni, Vinous, February 2023

98<sub>pts</sub> Decanter "Tasted with Bart Araujo at Wheeler Farms, the 'Rolls Royce of custom crush facilities', as described by Accendo winemaker Nigel Kinsman. Bart and wife Daphne established Wheeler Farms after selling their Araujo Estate (now Eisele Vineyard) to the Artemis Group. Grapes are sourced from Vine Hill Ranch, Sleeping Lady in Rutherford, Eco Tone (a former Abreu property), and a site on Diamond Mountain formerly known as Reverie. Generous blackberry fruit aromas are tinged with wild herbs and heady cedar spices. Broad and expansive on the palate with saturated dark fruit, cassis, graphite and wild herbs. Rustic, elongated tannins glide to a savoury finish."

Jonathan Cristaldi, Decanter, June 2022

96<sub>pts</sub>
Wine Spectator

"Delivers a lush yet focused wave of gorgeous loganberry and black currant fruit laced subtly with warm loam, alder smoke and dried bay leaf details. Delivers a long cast-iron spine that drives underneath from start to finish, with the fruit taking an encore alongside a violet note at the very end. A touch more grip than your typical '19 as well. Impressive. Best from 2026 through 2040"

J.M., Wine Spectator, April 2023