

# CATERWAUL

## 2023 CATERWAUL PHELAN RANCH VINEYARD NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

### NOTES

Our 100% Cabernet Sauvignon from the Phelan Ranch sources grapes from the Elizabeth and Jefe blocks located at the very top of this remote ridgetop site. The nose contains an intense minerality: graphite and slate bolstered by blackberry and purple plum. A brooding density on the pallet is wrapped by fine tannins with rich compote, cocoa nib, and bergamot flavors. Seemingly paradoxical to the tiny berries typical at the ranch, this wine holds great complexity and power. A singular note of dazzling brightness tethers balance with this dynamic mountain fruit through to a long finish. Thomas's clear expression of a unique site from a vintage for the history books.

### VINTAGE

A high-potential vintage is characterized by the median of inputs like rainfall, sunshine, heat and lack of unexpected weather events. 2023 has been heralded early and often as a legendary vintage because of this exact scenario. Average annual winter and spring rains set up an uneventful frost season, a warm and mild growing season and the lack of harvest heat or rain to force picking. Winemakers were blessed to harvest fruit exactly when they wanted it and the wineries processed without the usual rush and pressure for tanks. Extended vine hang time in moderate conditions developed soft tannins that support layered complex flavors.

### PARTNERSHIP

A partnership between Matt Hardin and Thomas Brown was formed during the 2014 vintage after countless years of working together. Out of that friendship the idea of utilizing the strengths of one another gave birth to Caterwaul wines. Matt Hardin, a 6th generation Pope Valley resident and farmer, is owner of Hardin Vineyard Management, one of the most renowned vineyard management companies in Northern California as well as his own Matthew Wallace Wines. Thomas Rivers Brown, winemaker for some of Napa and Sonoma's most iconic labels (Schrader Cellars, Outpost and his own Rivers-Marie, Aston & Dorsey), has more than sixty 100-point wines to his resume.



**APPELLATION:**  
Napa Valley

**VARIETAL:**  
Cabernet Sauvignon

**BARREL AGING:**  
100% French Oak, 85% New,  
21 Months in barrel

**ALCOHOL:**  
14.9%

**TOTAL PRODUCTION:**  
207 Cases