

CATERWAUL

2023 CATERWAUL PHELAN RANCH VINEYARD NAPA VALLEY RED WINE (51% CABERNET FRANC, 49% CABERNET SAUVIGNON)

NOTES

Truly a unicorn wine, this red blend is one of a handful of Cabernet Franc-dominant wines ever made by Thomas Rivers Brown. A one-off in an already fabled vintage, this wine should grab the attention of those looking to add something special to their cellar. Aromatics are lifted by the Cabernet Franc clone 214- steely mountain minerality with a eucalyptus undertone. Savory flavors of grilled red meat with an herbes de provence rub, dried tobacco and vanilla pod wrap around warm marionberry with silky soft tannins. With 4 barrels produced, this wine will evanesce quickly both in glass and inventory but not in memory.

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:
116 Cases