

# Ceritas

## WINTER 2023 RELEASE

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Growing up, I had the good fortune of being raised by passionate collectors of California Cabernet. Names like Diamond Creek, Robert Mondavi, Charles Krug, Dunn, and Eberle filled our cellar - effectively a shrine to the great, enduring pillars of California wine.

These wines were made in a very different era of winegrowing. Emphasis was placed on purity of fruit and varietal typicity - the wines were bright, ethereal, and above all, delicious. The passage of time has proven this to be a wise philosophy.

The desire to create something akin to what I drank back then has been present since Ceritas was founded back in 2005. This itch was scratched in 2012 when we began working with Peter Martin Ray, but I knew that more was possible.

2020 left us with a lot of time on our hands as lockdowns began. I spent countless hours researching great Cabernet sites all over the world, and finding what made them special. Old vines, high elevations, and cool climates formed the bedrock of the kind of Cabernet that we all loved dearly.

I then put thousands of miles on my car scouting dozens of vineyards all over Northern California. From this exhaustive search, three new sites were identified and secured.

Going into the harvest of 2020, we understood that working with new vineyards is not without risk. We did not know these sites intimately yet - we assumed that we would not be making vineyard designate wines the first time around.

This mindset allowed for a tremendous amount of creativity in the cellar. Most of the sites were fermented in several lots, with vastly different cellar techniques applied to all.

By the end, we were left with a large assortment of distinctly interesting raw materials. Extensive blending trials began, and the best individual pieces were isolated for use in Colima.

What fascinated us about the finished product is the distinct clarity in which its component pieces shine through. The character of the sites is crystal clear, and they play off each other perfectly. The interplay of these unique elements renders something more than the sum of its parts.

While Colima will remain the only Cabernet Sauvignon released from the 2020 vintage, these five wines will compose the core of a growing Cabernet program in the years to come. Individual, one-off bottlings may appear in our June Special Releases as well.

We cannot wait to share these wines with you.

- JR / AK / JV / MJ

**2020 “COLIMA” CABERNET SAUVIGNON / CALIFORNIA**

2024 – 2040

Pouring a shimmering ruby color in the glass, our first vintage offers explosive aromatics of wild plums, rose hips and pencil shavings. Grippy tannin and electric freshness roll over the tongue on the attack, while vibrant huckleberry shines through the middle. Cool-climates and gentle work in the winery keep the wine expressive and open in its youth.

*Coming Soon*

**PETER MARTIN RAY CABERNET SAUVIGNON / SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS**

**70 years young. Classic.**

Despite its perch above the bustle of Silicon Valley down below, Peter Martin Ray appears to have been left behind by time. One of the few remaining examples of the legendary Rixford clone, this vineyard has proven its remarkable consistency vintage after vintage for nearly 70 years. These old, head-trained vines simply produce some of the most profoundly beautiful fruit in the cellar every year. It provides a subtle herbaceous quality to Colima along with a rigid spine of structure and acidity.

**PARATUS CABERNET SAUVIGNON / MT. VEEDER, NAPA VALLEY**

**Precipitous pedigree.**

We were immediately struck by the precipitous nature of this vineyard, where tough, scraggly vines have clung to rough-hewn terraces for nearly 45 years. The almost comically difficult conditions, in tandem with a dedication to organics and dry-farming, have rendered the care of this site a tricky, but rewarding pursuit. The deep, inky fruit profile here is much needed to balance out the other pieces that go into Colima.

**MARIANA'S CABERNET SAUVIGNON / SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS**

**Sky-high solar power.**

Hidden away on a side road near the small town of Loma Prieta, Mariana's holds the lofty title of being the highest elevation vineyard with which we work. At nearly 1700ft up, intense sunlight and alpine chill combine to create paradise for our style of Cabernet. This place yields an ethereal, nuanced style of Cabernet the likes of which we have not seen prior. Mariana's lends its explosive aromatics and precise tannin to polish and refine the Colima blend.

**BLACK RIDGE CABERNET SAUVIGNON / SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS**

**The hidden gem.**

Soaring above Highway 17 and the Lexington Reservoir far below, Black Ridge is an extreme site, cut from rocky, mountainous soils. The property that came to be known as Black Ridge was planted to grapevines during the mid 19th century, but became a prune orchard shortly after prohibition. The current owners began the daunting task of taking this site back to its (literal) roots in 1999. Today, several coveted clonal selections of mature Cabernet Sauvignon produce exquisite, balanced wine.