

WHITEHALL
LANE



2015
ST. HELENA
CABERNET SAUVIGNON
LEONARDINI
VINEYARD

VINTAGE

The 2015 vintage started with very little rainfall prior to bud break, enabling the vintage to be considered a drought year. Drought years often lead to less vegetative growth and more focused fruit development, which is always a great thing for winemakers. The Spring eventually brought about flowering, which was cooler than expected and in turn affected the fruit set and potential yields. Even though yields in the vineyards were down, this provided the winemaking team with increased concentration of tannins and flavors from the grapes. Summer was relatively warm and allowed the fruit to ripen at a steady pace and by September and October, the grapes were harvested at optimal ripeness. This 2015 wine was made from hand-selected grapes in a small block of clone 8 Cabernet Sauvignon from our Leonardini Vineyard and our Fawn Park Petit Verdot vineyard.

WINE

Upon hand harvesting in the early morning hours, our Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot were carefully destemmed and sent to tank for a whole berry fermentation. The grapes were cold-soaked in tank at 45°F for 4-7 days, allowing for increased color, aroma, and flavor extraction. After inoculation with a select yeast, the grape must (juice, skins, and seeds) fermented at 82°F, which allowed for a hot extraction on the skins. For fermentation cap management, we pumped juice over the skins two times per day, wetting the cap evenly for a nice healthy fermentation. After fermentation and pressing, the wine was sent to 75% new French oak, 25% neutral French oak barrels, aging for 26 months. The final blend for the Leonardini Vineyard is 95% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Petit Verdot and was bottled unfinned and unfiltered.

NOTES

This 2015 Leonardini Vineyard is a powerful example of Cabernet Sauvignon. It begins on the nose with fragrant dark black fruits, blackberries, violets, cassis, sweet vanillin, graphite, and cinnamon. Its balance and mid-palate are most notable, providing long, plush tannins alongside its dense fruit character. On the palate, it delivers rich sweet black fruits, baked blackberry crisp, roasted walnuts, mixed berry jam, and cedar on the finish. The beautiful underlying tannin structure, complexity, and ample fruit will evolve over time and age gracefully for 10-15 years.

WINEMAKER: *Jason Moulton*

APPELLATION: *St. Helena, Leonardini
Vineyard*

COMPOSITION: *95% Cabernet
Sauvignon, 5% Petit Verdot*

ACCOLADES: *94+ points - Wine Advocate,
92 points - Wine Spectator*

ALCOHOL: *14.8%*

1563 ST. HELENA HWY SOUTH • ST. HELENA, CA 94574 • WHITEHALLLANE.COM

