

# WHITEHALL LANE



WINEMAKER: *Jason Moulton*

APPELLATION: *Napa Valley*

COMPOSITION: *96% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Petit Verdot*

ALCOHOL: *14.9%*

## 2018 NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON LEONARDINI ESTATE

### VINTAGE

The 2018 vintage was a near perfect growing season! Bud break began in late March to early April, leading to a Spring that was mild and dry. Summer was also quite warm and long, leading to a cooling effect near the end of the season and into Fall. The consistent summer weather encouraged our Cabernet Sauvignon grapes to ripen in late mid-September to late October when they were in perfect balance. The fruit is from our Estate vineyards in Rutherford, St. Helena, and the Oak Knoll District appellations. The grapes in this wine was harvested from our Leonardini, Fawn Park, and Millennium MM Estate vineyards.

### 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, the grape 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 65% new French oak, 35% neutral French oak barrels, aging for 26 months. The final blend for the Leonardini Estate is 96% Cabernet Sauvignon and 4% Petit Verdot. At bottling, this wine was unfinned and unfiltered.

### NOTES

This 2018 Leonardini Estate wine is a quintessential Cabernet Sauvignon. It begins on the nose with black cherry cola, ripe red raspberries, caramel, dark chocolate, pencil shavings, and cinnamon. Its balance and mid-palate are most notable, providing long, plush tannins alongside its dense fruit character. On the palate, it delivers chocolate covered cherries, mixed berry plum jam, toasted walnuts, slate, toffee, brioche, and cedar on the finish. The beautiful underlying tannin structure, complexity, and ample fruit will evolve over time and age gracefully for 15-20 years.

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