



**2017
CABERNET FRANC
NAPA VALLEY**

There's nothing quite like standing in Stagecoach Vineyard, one of the most beautiful spots "in" Napa Valley—the extraordinary site is high up on Pritchard Hill in and adjacent to the Atlas Peak AVA. The large vineyard sits at an elevation between 900 and 1700 feet and is comprised of a number of different microclimates. Cabernet Franc grown in Block I is among the most sought-after fruit in all of Stagecoach Vineyard for its combination of soft elegance and underlying power and ageability.

GROWING SEASON

The wet spring encountered by Napa Valley in 2017 was evened out by the second two-thirds of the growing season, which were mostly defined in terms of heat accumulation. 2017 has been favorably compared to the well-remembered '07 vintage, an epic year for ripeness up and down the valley that, over a decade later, demonstrates longevity in many of the better Cabernets produced that year. 2017's mild, cool spring weather gave way to a normal, warm summer. The Labor Day heat spike brought on heat conditions that lasted well into September, but the eventual cooler weather resulted in ripe, but balanced, fruit.

WINEMAKING

Our 2017 Cabernet Franc was harvested from Stagecoach Vineyard in early October. After picking, the grapes went through four days of cold-soaking, then a 10-day primary fermentation. For color and tannin extraction, the Cab Franc saw 11 days of extended maceration, with malolactic fermentation taking place after it was put to barrel. The wine was aged for 26 months in French oak barrels.

TASTING NOTES

Stagecoach Vineyard tends to produce wines of tremendously expressive aromatics, and our '17 is no exception. Right out of the bottle, this Cabernet Franc bursts with a nose redolent of ripe blueberries, violets, and dark chocolate. Per the '17 growing conditions, it is fairly ripe and fruit-forward, but with a little time in the glass, it begins to develop elegant flavors of cassis, dried cherries, and tobacco through its long, concentrated finish.

SPECIFICS

WINE: 2017 Cabernet Franc

VINEYARD: Stagecoach

AVA: Napa Valley

HARVESTED: 10/3/17

BRIX @ HARVEST: 25.9 °

AGING: 26 months in French oak barrels

BLEND: 96.5% Cabernet Franc, 1.5% Petit Verdot, 0.75% Malbec, 0.75% Merlot & 0.5% Cabernet Sauvignon

PH: 3.61

TA: 6.2 g/L

ALC: 14.5%

AROMAS: Ripe blueberries, violets, and dark chocolate

FLAVORS: Cassis, tobacco, and dried cherries

PROFILE: The wine is medium bodied with an incredible mouthfeel, polished tannins and balanced acidity. This wine is built to age beautifully!
