

94 PTS

ROBERT PARKER'S
WINE ADVOCATE

DAOU

Reserve

CABERNET SAUVIGNON



THE WINE | This wine displays a magnificent, compelling and inviting nose that is quintessential of Cabernet Sauvignon. Unrestrained wild cherry, currant and mulberry fragrances arise with pronounced notes of cocoa, coriander, caramelized sugar and wintergreen. Sublayers of dried herbs, cedar, tobacco leaf and slate provide substantive foundation to the aromatic profile. On the palate a veritable explosion of fresh, ripe, dark berry fruits. Tangy blackberry, juicy black cherry, pomegranate and cranberry are mingled with lovely blueberry and raspberry accents, underscored with kirsch and rhubarb. Integrated nicely with toasty oak, graphite and forest floor. Full bodied and a very silky texture, this wine glides into a long, generous finish resonating with ripe fruit and exotic spice allowing an amazing aging capabilities.

THE VINTAGE | The 2017 growing season was preceded by one of the wettest winters in recent memory, with nearly 35 inches of rain recorded on DAOU Mountain. The vines were energized by the much-needed moisture, setting one of our best crops yet. The weather remained steady from spring through mid-summer. However, a heat wave descended upon California during the third week of August. Many vintners chose to harvest immediately, but we made the brave decision to allow the fruit to hang. As we suspected, a cooling trend snapped the heat wave ensuring that the fruit achieved optimal ripeness. The result was our latest harvest ever on the mountain, reaching all the way into the third week of October. The long hang time yielded the deepest color and concentration we have seen from our estate. The tannins are silky and beautifully integrated. We feel that the 2017 wines will rival the best ever from DAOU Mountain.

DAOU VINEYARDS & WINERY | Family owned and operated, DAOU Vineyards & Winery is committed to producing collectible, world-class wines to rival the most respected appellations in the world. DAOU Mountain's combination of remarkable geology, microclimate, a 2,200-foot elevation, and steep slopes gives it a terroir described as "a jewel of ecological elements." As stewards of this beautiful terroir, our goal is to make fine wines that honestly and accurately reflect the potential of the estate.

ACCOLADES | 92 points, *Jeb Dunnuck*; 94 points, *Vinous*

BARREL AGING | 16 months in 50% new French oak

ALCOHOL | 14.8%

2017