Bella Union

THE ART OF CABERNET

NAPA VALLEY

2018 Bella Union Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

VINEYARD DESCRIPTION

Bella Union was founded by the partners of Far Niente to specialize in the art of blending Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. The cornerstone of the blend is our 25-acre vineyard in Rutherford, along Bella Oaks Lane, a country road that was historically called Bella Union. The vineyard is planted primarily to Cabernet Sauvignon in well-drained loam, and the vines range from 20 – 30 years of age. Classic varietals of Malbec, Cabernet Franc and Petite Verdot sourced from select Napa Valley vineyards complete the blend.

HARVEST NOTES

Near-perfect weather conditions and timing, from budbreak to harvest, inspired us to hail 2018 as a Goldilocks vintage! A February start to the season was followed by a mild spring, giving us extended flowering and balanced clusters in both vineyards. Consistent summer temperatures allowed our fruit to enjoy a leisurely, extended hang time so that each cluster could achieve perfect phenolic maturity. Because we never had to rush, we were able to harvest our fruit when it reached *just-right* ripeness that as just-right, picking our blocks over the course of two weeks.

SENSORY EVALUATION

With its blackberry patch aromatics followed by hints of raspberry preserves and accents of leather, there's a ripe, pure fruit quality to this stunning new vintage. Generous layers of red fruit flavors fill the entry while subtle cocoa and baking spice undertones linger on the midpalate. Resolved tannins enhance the almost-velvety texture throughout the entire wine, and fresh botanical notes add vibrance to a finish that is at once long, luscious and lifted.

APPELLATION
Napa Valley

VARIETALS
88% Cabernet Sauvignon,
8% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc,
1% Malbec, 1% Petit Verdot

FERMENTATION
90% stainless, 20% open-topped and 80% closed; 5% neutral wood open top; 5% concrete

HARVEST DATES
September 24 - October 6, 2018

AGING
French oak barrels
50% new, 50% neutral

TIME
18 months in barrel

SKIN CONTACT
14 days, average

RELEASE DATE
August 2019

WINEMAKER
Michael Accurso

DIRECTOR OF WINEMAKING
Andrew Delos

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