



## 2013 PRIVATE STOCK CABERNET SAUVIGNON

### VINEYARD

The Vine Cliff Winery's Estate Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard is located in the Oakville AVA on the east side of Silverado Trail. The vineyard consists of 14 individual vineyard blocks ranging from steep hillside terraces, to the flat rocky red soil of the "Oakville Bench" at 400 feet above the valley floor. Five Cabernet Sauvignon clones are planted around the estate, each one giving us a unique aroma and flavor profile. The grapevines growing in the steep hillside terraces have to struggle and grow deep roots to find the minerals and water they need to ripen the fruit. The result is low yield and small grape clusters and berries that produce a wine with intense flavor and aroma. Another drought year, the 2013 growing season began with low winter rainfall. The season continued dry and temperatures were warmer than normal resulting in early bud break and bloom. Drier soils in the spring helped slow grape canopy growth which resulted in lower cluster weight and smaller berry size which bodes well for wine quality. Every year we select our most exceptional lots from these low yield, high quality blocks to make the very limited Private Stock blend.

### WINEMAKING

When the fruit on the vine has reached its peak flavor and ripeness, it is hand-picked in the cool early morning. At the winery it is placed onto conveyors and gently sorted to remove any stem-jacks or raisin berries as it passes to the small tank or barrel where it is fermented. Individual vineyard blocks are kept separate. The grapes are cold soaked for three to four days before the must is warmed and the fermentation initiated. Small berries in 2013 allowed for plenty of color, flavor and tannin extraction in the must. The fermentation is carefully monitored, temperature controlled and gently pumped over. When the right balance and flavor sweet-spot is reached, the free run wine was gently drained off the grapes and aged separately in a special selection of Chateau style French oak barrels. In the spring the young wines are meticulously blended to create this special wine. It is then aged for another year in barrels so it can gain oak flavor, complexity and integration. Our 2013 Private Stock Cabernet final blend is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon.

### TASTING NOTES

The aroma is a complex mix of cassis, blackberry, berry, plum, and earth. Aging in the finest French Bordeaux barrels produces a bouquet of cedar, anise, vanilla, and a hint of nutmeg and clove. Rich and luscious on the palate with balanced acidity and berry and cherry flavors that linger with supple tannin on the long smooth finish.



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