

STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS

2014 WINEMAKER SERIES CABERNET FRANC

VINEYARDS & WINEMAKING

Winemaker Marcus Notaro loves Cabernet Franc for its interesting aromatics (when ripe) and full structure. It's his favorite variety to blend with Cabernet Sauvignon to add complexity without taking away Cabernet's characteristics, and is why we've recently been planting a small amount of Cabernet Franc in our FAY and S.L.V. vineyards.

This wine is a blend of 76% Cabernet Franc and 24% Cabernet Sauvignon. The Cabernet Franc is primarily sourced from the Rawah Vineyard off Soda Canyon Road in the Napa Valley with a small amount from Carpenter Vineyard in St. Helena. The grapes from the Rawah Vineyard are from a block perched on a steep south-facing knoll within the vineyard. The low vigor provides great sun exposure to the clusters that helps bring out nice blueberry and boysenberry aromas. The Cabernet Sauvignon is sourced from FAY and Soda Canyon Ranch Vineyards.

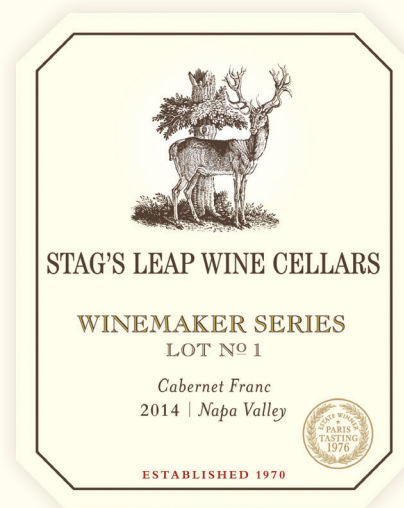
The grapes were harvested on September 12. After fermentation, the wine was aged for 21 months in 100% new French oak.

VINTAGE

2014 was the third in a string of excellent vintages in Napa Valley. After a bone-dry winter and several years of drought conditions, much needed rain arrived in March that filled the soils with moisture. The rain fell at the perfect time and changed the direction of the growing season. In January, the winery team was strategizing to farm for small canopies, tannic fruit and low yields due to the drought. With the March rains, however, the focus in the vineyards shifted to controlling crop size and managing vine vigor. While 2014 was a warm year, there were no extreme heat events. Daytime highs were average yet evenings weren't as cool as normal, giving the vines an ideal growing climate. This allowed the grape varieties to ripen one after another, so grapes were picked and brought into the winery when they were ready. The resulting wines are of extremely high quality with ripe fruit flavors (at lower sugar levels), elegant tannins and great balance.

WINE

This Cabernet Franc opens with classic blueberry aromas along with notes of baking spice, thyme/sage, dark stone fruit and clove. Rich in texture, the wine is medium-bodied with a lingering finish of ripe blackberry and sweet oak. The wine's nice acidity and hints of herbs make it a nice complement to pork roast with rosemary and sage or smoked beef brisket.



HARVEST:	<i>September 12, 2014</i>
ALCOHOL:	<i>14.5%</i>
pH:	<i>3.77</i>
TITRATABLE ACIDITY	<i>0.53 g/100ml</i>
BARREL AGAIN:	<i>21 months in 100% new French oak</i>
BLEND:	<i>76% Cabernet Franc 24% Cabernet Sauvignon</i>
APPELLATION:	<i>Napa Valley</i>
CASES PRODUCED:	<i>265 cases</i>
SUGGESTED RETAIL:	<i>\$60 per bottle</i>
RELEASE DATE:	<i>May 2017</i>