

# STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS

## 2015 WINEMAKER SERIES CABERNET FRANC

### NAPA VALLEY

This Winemaker Series selection was crafted exclusively for our wine club members.

#### VINEYARDS AND 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. That's why we've planted a small amount of Cabernet Franc in our FAY and S.L.V. vineyards.

This wine is a blend of 87% Cabernet Franc and 13% Cabernet Sauvignon. The Cabernet Franc is from the Rawah Vineyard off Soda Canyon Road in the Napa Valley. 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 primarily sourced from the Johnson Vineyard in Calistoga.

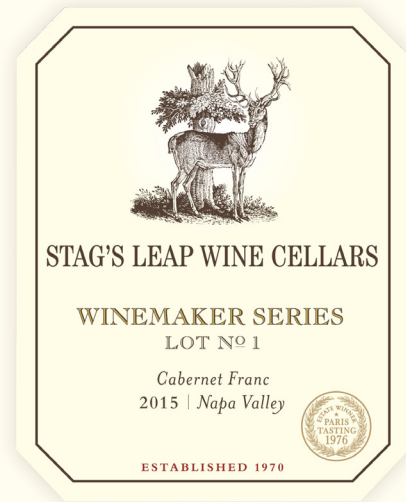
The grapes were harvested on September 29. After fermentation, the wine was aged for 21 months in 90% new French oak.

#### VINTAGE


Overall, 2015 was a year with lower than usual crop size but with high quality fruit. The growing season was hot and dry, and harvest started and ended early. A very warm and relatively dry winter led to early bud break but, conversely, temperatures were abnormally low during the bloom period in May. During this extended bloom, there were two small rain events that resulted in a high incidence of 'shatter,' reducing tonnage. While it was a challenging vintage, by continually adjusting to the challenges and employing best practices, the grapes brought into the winery were of high quality.

#### WINE

This Cabernet Franc opens with classic blueberry aromas along with notes of cherry, baking spice, roasted coffee and cassis. The wine has a soft and flavorful mouthfeel with a good balance between fruit and oak, leading to a long finish. The wine's nice acidity and spice notes make it a nice complement to pork roast with rosemary and sage or smoked beef brisket.



<b>HARVEST:</b>	<i>September 29, 2015</i>
<b>ALCOHOL:</b>	<i>14.5%</i>
<b>pH:</b>	<i>3.84</i>
<b>TITRATABLE ACIDITY:</b>	<i>0.52 g/100ml</i>
<b>BARREL AGING:</b>	<i>21 months in 90% new French oak</i>
<b>BLEND:</b>	<i>87% Cabernet Franc, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon</i>
<b>APPELLATION:</b>	<i>Napa Valley</i>
<b>CASES PRODUCED:</b>	<i>242 cases</i>
<b>SUGGESTED RETAIL:</b>	<i>\$60 per bottle</i>
<b>RELEASE DATE:</b>	<i>December 2018</i>

  
Marcus Notaro  
WINEMAKER