

STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS

2019 S.L.V. CABERNET SAUVIGNON

S.L.V., also known as Stag's Leap Vineyards, is the winery's first vineyard. Planted in 1970, this vineyard achieved international fame when three-year-old vines from the 1973 harvest produced a wine that stunned the wine world when it bested some of France's greatest wines in a 1976 blind tasting known as the "Judgment of Paris." Today, this history-making vineyard continues to produce wines with layers of complexity, spicy intensity and excellent structure—promising long life and ageability.

VINEYARDS & WINEMAKING

As most of the 1970s-era vines have aged past their grape-producing prime, they have been gradually replanted, perpetuating the life of this historic vineyard. For this wine the primary blocks were 2A, 3A, 1A, 3B and S.L.V. Block 4 – the "grande dame" of the vineyard – which was planted in 1972. These vines along with blocks on the eastern side of S.L.V., characterized by their fire-borne volcanic soils, give this wine its structure and sense of minerality along with concentrated dark fruit flavors and ripe, elegant tannins. Vines in alluvial soils in the western part of the vineyard add vibrant fruit accent notes and heady aromatics.

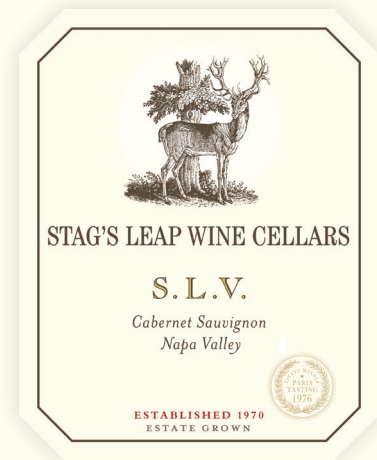
Each lot was vinified and aged separately in small French oak barrels for 21 months, allowing the characteristics of each block to develop. With this vintage, Winemaker Marcus Notaro used careful barrel selection to marry the unique graphite, dark fruit and cocoa characters of S.L.V. to the barrel type and toast level. In the latter stages of aging, the barrel lots were blended together.

VINTAGE

Spring in Napa Valley was wet with significant rain that increased canopy growth and caused some shatter during bloom in the vineyards. Our vineyard team worked diligently to balance canopies and fruit load, and to expose the fruit to the sun at the right time. Following this wet and cool start to the year that resulted in a lot of vigor, the summer gave way to near ideal growing conditions. Like 2018, a long growing season allowed for grapes to reach optimal ripeness. Yields were less than 2018 and harvest was later than usual. The main challenge this harvest was powering wineries with generators, as the power company shut off electricity to mitigate any potential fires due to high winds. Fires in upper Sonoma did not affect northern Napa Valley vineyards, and winds kept smoke out of the valley. Overall quality is quite high. Whites are aromatic and crisp, and Cabernet has beautiful dark fruit aromas, nice complexity, and more richness than 2018.

WINE

The 2019 S.L.V. Cabernet Sauvignon offers generous dark fruit aromas of black currant, plum and candied fig along with cocoa dust. On the palate the wine has dense, yet polished, tannins that meld with layers of dark fruit, fig and violet. The tannin structure, dark fruit, and pleasing minerality point to this wine's ability to age. Enjoy with Steak Diane, Grilled Hangar Steak with Chimichurri, Duck Confit with Roasted Figs and Polenta or Mushroom Ravioli with Arrabiata Sauce.



HARVEST DATES: *October 8 to 21, 2019*

ALCOHOL: *14.5%*

pH: *3.80*

TA: *0.52 g/100ml*

FERMENTATION: *100% stainless steel tank*

**MALOLACTIC
FERMENTATION:** *100%*

BARREL AGING: *21 months
100% new French oak*

BLEND: *100% Cabernet Sauvignon*

APPELLATION: *Stag's Leap District,
Napa Valley (100% estate)*

RELEASE DATE: *May 2022*

MARCUS NOTARO
WINEMAKER