Maisons Marques & Domaines

Dominus

Dominus Estate

Napanook

Napa Valley, California, United States
Vintage: 2023

Overview

Napanook is made solely from grapes grown at the historic Napanook Vineyard in Yountville, Napa Valley. The wine is blended from blocks in the vineyard that were carefully selected for their lively fruit, soft tannins and early maturing characteristics.

Winemaking

Enjoying a temperate climate, the vineyard's volcanic, well draining soils are specifically suited to growing Cabernet Sauvignon and the other Bordeaux varietals which compose the Dominus Estate wines. The soil is gravelly and clay loam. Meticulous efforts are made throughout the seasons to produce grapes of the highest quality for Dominus Estate wines.

During the winter season, precise cane pruning ensures ideal cluster spacing for optimal fruit ripening. Dry farming relies on a deep root system to take advantage of natural water sources from rain and underground supplies. Cluster thinning optimizes quality through yield regulation.

Rinsing the grapes 10 to 15 days before harvest removes dust and enhances the purity of the fruit. Hand-picking with small french shears instead of harvest knives minimizes bruising and vine damage. Small harvest baskets preserve the integrity of the clusters as they are transported to the winery. The sunny side of the vines is picked a few days before the shady side respecting perfect maturity.

Minimal intervention and restraint throughout the process of grape berry selection, fermentation and aging preserve the character of the fruit. The resulting wines convey the very personality of the vineyard. Dominus winemaking includes separate lot-by-lot fermentation. Cluster sorting by hand is complemented by an optical berry sorting system. Gentle pumping-over extracts aromas, color and tannins. Vertical wine press at low pressure delicately releases components from the skin. Racking barrel to barrel in 100% french oak removes sediment and assures clarification of the wine during aging.

Tasting Notes

Silken, vibrant, earthy, layered, cacao, zest, pomegranate.

Harvest Notes

The 2023 growing season unfolded at a moderate pace, shaped by generous rainfall, mild spring temperatures, and a later-than-usual harvest that rewarded patience. Total rainfall from July 2022 through June 2023 reached 51 inches (historical average of 31 inches) replenishing soils and providing ample water reserves heading into the growing season. Spring conditions led to a complete berry set. Veraison occurred roughly two weeks later than average, and the extended growing cycle allowed for even, gradual ripening and the development of depth and balance. An abundant harvest took place between October 7 and 18 under favorable weather conditions.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Varietals: 92% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot
New Oak: 20%
Aging: 20 months