

# Othello

PRE-SELL

## OTHELLO 2023

### OVERVIEW

Produced from the historic Napanook vineyard in Yountville, California, Othello is a wine that expresses the singularity of its exceptional terroir and is accessible and enjoyable in its youth.

It was at the famed Napanook vineyard that Christian Moueix established Dominus Estate in 1983. An historical site, it was the source of fruit for some of the finest Napa Valley wines in the 1940's and 1950's. Notably, the vineyard's history can be traced back to Napa Valley's beginnings, when in 1838 George Yount, for whom the town of Yountville was named, first planted grapevines there.

Today, the vineyard produces three wines: Dominus, its flagship, Napanook, and Othello. A model for its sustainable farming practices, the Napanook vineyard has been hailed for its dry-farming, which shuns watering the vines, thus spurring them to draw deeply on the land's unique geology.

The resulting wines are an expression of this unique vineyard. In 2021, Dominus Estate received its CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers) certification for organic farming practices.

### WINEMAKING

Meticulous viticultural and winemaking practices are undertaken with the objective of producing wines that are pure, balanced and complex. Minimal intervention and restraint throughout the process of grape berry selection, fermentation and aging preserve the character of the fruit. The resulting wines are an expression of this unique vineyard.

### VINTAGE OVERVIEW

The 2023 growing season was defined by exceptional rainfall, cool spring temperatures, and a notably delayed harvest. Total rainfall from July 2022 through June 2023 reached 51 inches, making it the fourth wettest year since 1998 and significantly above the historical average of 31 inches. Cold temperatures in March delayed bud-break by approximately two weeks. June continued the cool trend, recording an average temperature of 62°F, the coldest since 1998, compared to the typical 66°F. Despite a warm summer and early fall, vine development remained behind schedule. Veraison occurred roughly two weeks later than average. However, thanks to sustained warm conditions, ripening progressed evenly.

### VARIETALS:

89% Cabernet Sauvignon  
11% Petit Verdot  
NEW OAK: 20%

92

POINTS

THE WINE PALATE

The 2023 Othello is a blend of 89% Cabernet Sauvignon and 11% Petit Verdot. Deep garnet-purple in color, it springs from the glass with vibrant notes of red currants and fresh blackberries, giving way to hints of bay leaves, pencil lead, and mossy tree bark. The full-bodied palate is bursting with bold red and black berry flavors, framed by a racy line and plush tannins, finishing long and savory. Delicious.

90

POINTS

VINOUS

The 2023 Othello is a tasty entry-level bottling from the front blocks on the property, those on either side of Hopper Creek. Juicy dark red fruit, cinnamon, new leather and cedar are pushed forward in this delicious, effortless Cabernet Sauvignon. Best of all, this should be a fabulous value, too.

90

POINTS

JEB DUNNUCK

The third wine of this great estate (and made in reasonable quantities), the 2023 Othello is a pretty, Bordeaux-like effort with juicy black cherry, leather, and tobacco notes in a medium-bodied, charming, deliciously balanced, satisfying style. Based on 89% Cabernet Sauvignon and 11% Petit Verdot and aged 18 months in 20% new French oak, it's best enjoyed over the coming 7-8 years. Drink 2025-2033.

