



2014 BRANDING IRON VINEYARD

Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville, Napa Valley



VINEYARD DESCRIPTION

Named for the branding iron owned by the proprietor, the eight-and-a-half acre Branding Iron Vineyard lies in western Oakville, close to the base of the Mayacamas Mountains. The vineyard is comprised of well-drained clay loam and the vines are vertically trellised to maximize sunlight and open the canopy. The area's warm climate and sun exposure in both the morning and afternoon are perfect for slowly ripening the fruit, which often benefits from a long hang time.

HARVEST NOTES

Pleasant spring conditions led to an early budbreak and bloom. Despite the low rainfall, the canopies were very healthy and the clusters were full. This vineyard had the same growing cycle as in 2013, so the gentle warmth of the summer months slowly ripened the fruit. Leaves were pulled in the fruiting zone and a slight detangling of the clusters helped give adequate air to each cluster. The younger block was the first to be harvested in early October, while the older block received a bit longer hang time to enhance flavor and tannin ripeness.

SENSORY EVALUATION

The 2014 Branding Iron Cabernet Sauvignon invites with aromas of mixed berries, floral notes and earth. Juicy raspberry and blackberry fruits meld with subtle clove and spice. Warm, toasty oak enriches the wine and accentuates its round mouthfeel, but dominant fruit lingers on the palate from start to finish as the soft tannins add harmony and grace.

APPELLATION

Oakville, Napa Valley

VARIETAL

100% Cabernet Sauvignon

AGING

French oak barrels
(55% new, 45% once-used)

RELEASE DATE

September 2017

HARVEST DATES

September 30 - October 11, 2014

SKIN CONTACT

10 - 11 days

TIME

16 months

FIRST VINTAGE

2000