



## 2015 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

The growing season kicked off in February with budbreak and an early bloom in April, which is about ten days earlier than normal. Yields were extremely small this year, and the lighter fruit load ripened quickly during the moderate summer months and early September heat. We harvested our first block on September 19, the earliest on record for this vineyard. We allowed our older block to hang on the vine a bit longer to ensure proper tannin maturity.

### SENSORY EVALUATION

Bright, clear black cherry and blackberry aromas, accented by notes of toasty spice, open onto a palate layered with flavors of mixed berries, spice and earth. Elegant and balanced, with a rich backbone of oak, this concentrated vintage possesses the tremendous length, the layered flavor profile and incredible depth that we've come to associate with this and other west Oakville vineyards.

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### APPELLATION

Oakville, Napa Valley

### VARIETAL

100% Cabernet Sauvignon

### AGING

French oak barrels  
(52% new, 48% once-used)

### RELEASE DATE

August 2018

### HARVEST DATES

September 19–29, 2015

### SKIN CONTACT

15 days

### TIME

16 months

### FIRST VINTAGE

2000