



2015 ROCK CAIRN VINEYARD

Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville, Napa Valley



VINEYARD DESCRIPTION

Planted in 1984, Rock Cairn Vineyard lies near the southern edge of the Oakville appellation, east of Highway 29 and north of the town of Yountville. The 30-acre vineyard is named for the “cairns,” or piles of rocks, that were formed long ago when Indians traversed the hills and would place a rock on the pile as an offering for safe passage. The site is comprised of deep, gravelly loam with a western exposure, and the vines produce very concentrated fruit late in the season. Nickel & Nickel selects grapes from nine acres of the vineyard.

HARVEST NOTES

Crop loads were small in this deep, gravelly loam Oakville vineyard, and preserving every berry became the theme of the 2015 vintage. Wider spacing between the vines allowed for more generous growth, and vigorous shoot and leaf removal gave the clusters ideal exposure. A moderate summer led to slow and steady ripening, with fruit maturing on the vine until mid-October. Fruit came into the winery during the chilly early mornings and went into both closed and open top tanks for fermentation.

SENSORY EVALUATION

Packed with fruit intensity, the 2015 Rock Cairn shows a rich concentration that is the hallmark of this small, scarce vintage. Bright black cherry, earth and toasted oak aromas open the wine, while deep black cherry and plum flavors fill the palate. An undercurrent of succulent herb adds complexity, while beautifully integrated tannins carry the rich fruit flavors into a long, gentle finish.

APPELLATION
Oakville, Napa Valley

VARIETAL
100% Cabernet Sauvignon

AGING
French oak barrels
(53% new, 47% once-used)

RELEASE DATE
August 2018

HARVEST DATE
October 12, 2015

SKIN CONTACT
10 days

TIME
16 months

FIRST VINTAGE
1997