



2016 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 is perfect for slowly ripening the fruit, which often benefits from a long hang time.

HARVEST NOTES

The 2016 growing season proceeded as usual for Napa Valley with a nice spring that led to a warm summer. Budbreak was about five days later than last year and this trend continued throughout the season. Slightly cooler weather in May lengthened the bloom window but warm summer days in June and July helped the vines catch up to normal. The crop looked good with clusters that had a nice leaf coverage allowing for speckled light. August brought both cool and hot weather, so we kept a close eye on each block.

SENSORY EVALUATION

With its bright red fruit and floral aromas complemented by a bouquet of clove, anise and cardamom, the 2016 Branding Iron Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon offers a beautiful balance of fresh fruit and spice. Upon entry, the wine is plush and elegant, offering hints of red berries and minerality, along with notes of warm toasted oak that add depth and length to the finish.

APPELLATION
Oakville, Napa Valley

VARIETAL
100% Cabernet Sauvignon

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

RELEASE DATE
April 2018

HARVEST DATES
October 5–12, 2016

SKIN CONTACT
18 days

TIME
17 months

FIRST VINTAGE
2000