



2012 BRANDING IRON VINEYARD

Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville, Napa Valley



VINEYARD DESCRIPTION

Named for the branding iron owned by the proprietor, the eight-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

An ideal 2012 growing season with warm days and cool, foggy nights offered the perfect conditions for fruit and tannin maturity. There were no heat spikes this year, so flavor development was at its peak. Bloom and veraison occurred 10 days ahead of last year, and the crews pulled leaves around the fruit to give them adequate exposure. This vineyard ripens slowly, so we harvested in mid-October. This allowed for long hang time, which provided good flavor and tannin development.

SENSORY EVALUATION

The elegantly balanced 2012 Branding Iron Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon offers aromas of blackberry and raspberry fruits mixed with toasty cedar from the oak. These lush, ripe flavors carry through on the palate with hints of green olive and dried herb. The juiciness from the fruit continues through to a lingering finish on soft, coating tannins. This is a wine that can be easily be enjoyed upon release, but will also age beautifully with time in the bottle.

APPELLATION

Oakville, Napa Valley

VARIETAL

100% Cabernet Sauvignon

AGING

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

RELEASE DATE

September 2015

HARVEST DATES

October 20 - 21, 2012

SKIN CONTACT

16 - 20 days

TIME

18 months

FIRST VINTAGE

2000