



## 2012 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

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. We pulled leaves around the fruit early, and shoots were rearranged to give adequate exposure and acclimate the clusters to the warm summer sun. Second crop removal is key to this vineyard due to the extra vigor of the vines, and the vineyard required a few passes to ensure that we received the best quality fruit. These vines ripen slowly and we waited until mid-October to harvest the fruit, picking the back section first and leaving the front section until it reached peak flavor maturity.

### SENSORY EVALUATION

The 2012 Rock Cairn Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon consistently produces wine of great distinction, and this 2012 vintage is no exception. Aromas of earth, tobacco leaf and anise intrigue the senses while flavors of cherry and black cherry fruits add juiciness to the palate. Toasty char from the French oak adds complexity but it is the rich core of tannins that carries these flavors into a long, luxurious finish.

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### APPELLATION

Oakville, Napa Valley

### VARIETAL

100% Cabernet Sauvignon

### AGING

French oak barrels  
(50% new, 50% once-used)

### RELEASE DATE

September 2015

### HARVEST DATES

October 19 – 26, 2012

### SKIN CONTACT

10 – 13 days

### TIME

18 months

### FIRST VINTAGE

1997