

L'ARTISTE PASSIONNÉ

CRAFTING LIQUID ART IN THE NAPA VALLEY

1/500



95 POINTS
JAMES SUCKLING

RUTHERFORD
NAPA VALLEY

2019



THE AMALGAMATION OF
1000 DECISIONS



TASTING NOTE

I recommend cooling this wine to around 50-55 degrees Fahrenheit and then decanting for 2 hours and serving in large Bordeaux-style glasses, filled no more than 1/3rd full.

The depth of color is intense. Dark, inky at the core, the wine's color extends all the way to the rim, a sign of concentration. A tinge of purple indicates youth and the high viscosity a certain new world power, ready to be unleashed.

The nose is more intense than the 2018 (rated 98 points by Suckling). It has the ripe black fruit, chocolate notes, licorice and dusty stones that are hallmarks of the terroir. It comes from a tiny slice of a thoroughbred vineyard, Trailside, in Rutherford. This is one of the most historic and classic vineyards in Napa.

What intrigues is the density, the depth, the layers, that keep you coming back for more deep inhalations. The aromatics can be elusive and fleeting before another takes its place.

Once again the palate is the star. Aaron Pott, one of the top Winemakers in Napa, crafts wines that are inspired by his time in St. Émilion where he managed a storied chateau, Troplong-Mondot. It is perfectly dry on the finish with ample fruit on the attack. It saturates the palate with ripe black cherry, licorice and black olive, dark chocolate and toast.

As with the 2018 vintage, it is the ultra long finish that is the hallmark. It just lingers and lingers, and re-emerge minutes later as a reminder that this wine is something special. It is a labor of love by two wine passionistas who took 10 rows of a historic vineyard in Rutherford and crafted their ultimate dream.

We hope you enjoy it as much as we did making it.



JAMES CLUER
MASTER OF WINE

With much gratitude to Winemaker and Partner Aaron Pott, Assistant Winemaker Eric Hagyard, Proprietor Kathleen Heitz, Vineyard Operations Toby Malkovich, Vineyard Manager Mark Neal, Brand Designer Olaf Strassner, Portocork's Tanya Rabellino, Her Majesty Elaine Wellesley, Bergin Printing's Sue Chesbrough, Saver Glass Jyll Vidal, Lafitte's Robert Stasko, the amazing Hunnicutt ladies, the talent at ETS Laboratories, Operations Manager David Munro, Marketing Manager Geoff Moss, all the support from Sondra Cluer, plus the large format bottling team, the team of night harvesters, and the beautiful, beautiful terroir of Napa Valley, and our highly valued clients. It's a team effort.

TERROIR

REGION

Napa Valley

SUB-REGION

Rutherford AVA

VINEYARD

Trailside

COORDINATES

38°28'49.4"N 122°23'51.1"W

SOIL

A mix of heavy rock and light dusty clay soils

VINEYARD

FARMING METHOD

Certified Organic

VINE AGE

26 years

GRAPE VARIETY

100% Cabernet Sauvignon

CLONE

Martha's

ROOTSTOCK

Jensen

YIELD

2.05 tons

HARVEST DATE

October 10th 2019

HARVEST METHOD

Hand harvested at 5:00 a.m. in cool temperatures

VINEYARD MANAGER

Mark Neal, Napa veteran grape grower

WINEMAKING

WINEMAKER

Aaron Pott, Partner

ASSISTANT WINEMAKER

Eric Hagyard

TIME FROM PICKING TO SORTING

55 minutes

SORTING METHOD

Twice manual and optical sorting

YEAST

Natural

FERMENTATION TEMPERATURE

Peak at 32° Celsius

MACERATION REGIME

Hand-punched four times daily

MACERATION LENGTH

Hagyard method aka Nerves of Steel

MATURATION

COOPERS

Special selection of Darnajou, Taransaud, Bossuet

PERCENTAGE OF NEW OAK

75% new, 25% one year old French

RACKINGS

Three

FINING

None

SO₂ REGIME

Average 25 ppm free

TOPPING

Constantly

BLENDING

January 2021

BOTTLING

DATE

June 5th, 2021

GLASS

Bordeaux Premiere 1.5L by Saver Glass

NUMBER OF MAGNUMS BOTTLED

450 total

CORK

Portocork Icon guaranteed TCA-Free

BRAND CONCEPT & PHILOSOPHY

James Cluer

PACKAGING AND WEB DESIGN

Olaf Strassner

PRINTING

Bergin Glass (Napa), using 22 carat gold

ANALYSIS

RESIDUAL SUGAR

0.3 g/L

pH

3.93

TOTAL ACIDITY

6.4 g/L

FREE SO₂

32 ppm

ALCOHOL

14.4%

