

# DARMS LANE

*Napa Valley*



## 2021 CABERNET SAUVIGNON, BON PASSE VINEYARD, NAPA VALLEY

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**VINEYARD:** The Estate Bon Passe Vineyard is located in the southwestern bench lands of Napa Valley, in the Oak Knoll District appellation. The vineyard is comprised of both hillsides and valley floor, with varying soil types. As a result, we harvest our six blocks separately to take advantage of the different lots and add complexity to our wines.

**APPELLATION:** Oak Knoll District, Napa Valley

**GROWING SEASON NOTES:** The 2021 season started with a dry moderate winter leading to an earlier Cabernet budbreak in March. The year saw consistent and moderate temperatures through the growing season with a brief heat spike in mid June. The summer saw moderate temperatures optimal for vine growth and fruit maturation. Warmer weather in late August and much of September led us to a final warm spell the first week of October that pushed the fruit to perfect ripeness. We picked the Cab blocks on October 7<sup>th</sup> and October 18<sup>th</sup> the Cabernet Franc was harvested October 7<sup>th</sup>. Crop size was below average giving the grapes nice flavor intensity and concentration. Overall a great year, just wish we had more of it to share.

**VARIETAL:** 97% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc

**WINEMAKER:** Brian Mox

**BARREL AGING:** 21 months in Oak – 36% new: 100% French

**WINEMAKER TASTING NOTES:** The 2021 vintage was another beautiful Napa Valley vintage with a smaller crop leading to more concentrated wines. Notes of Blackberry, cassis, vanilla, mocha, with hints of cedar and tobacco. The palate exhibits flavors of black cherry, plum, blackberry and mocha. The wine is full with generous entry with sweet fruit. Slightly chewy tannins starting at mid palate and a nice balanced acidity leading to a long and lingering finish. The density of the palate, the ripe fruit, and slightly savory profile make it an ideal pairing for grilled meats and hearty dishes. The vintage should peak from 2025 – 2030 depending on individual preferences and then age gracefully for another 3+ years.

**PRODUCTION:** 464 cases