



Bella Union: The Art of Cabernet

Bella Union was established in 2012 by the partners of Napa Valley's Far Niente and Nickel & Nickel wineries to specialize in the art of blending Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. The winery is situated on a 25-acre Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard along the storied Bella Oaks Lane in Rutherford. The name, Bella Union, is a nod to the history of Bella Oaks Lane, which was known as the Bella Union Roadway in the 1880s. At that time, the country lane led into the Mayacamas Mountains and eventually to the Bella Union Mining Company.

The inaugural 2012 Bella Union Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, was released in September 2015. Bella Union Cabernet pairs Rutherford fruit with traditional Bordeaux varieties from carefully selected vineyards throughout the Napa Valley. Bella Union is the newest addition to the Far Niente Family of Wineries and Vineyards, which includes Far Niente, Dolce, Nickel & Nickel and Post & Beam in the Napa Valley, and EnRoute in the Russian River Valley of Sonoma.



# WINEMAKING



Many years of farming and crafting Cabernet Sauvignon in the Napa Valley across appellations as diverse as Oakville, Howell Mountain, Stags Leap District and St. Helena, has helped us to intimately know the very best sites—each with its defining characteristics—from which to create Bella Union Cabernet.

The inspiration of the blend is our 25-acre vineyard in Rutherford, along Bella Oaks Lane. The vineyard is planted primarily to Cabernet Sauvignon in well-drained loam soils, and the vines range from 20 – 30 years of age. Signature notes of the Bella Union vineyard include exuberant plum and black cherry aromas. Classic varietals of Malbec, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot sourced from select Napa Valley vineyards complete the blend. The Bella Union blend also highlights Cabernet Sauvignon from the renowned DeCarle Vineyard. DeCarle is a unique site that is located right on the bench of the Rutherford AVA, where prime exposure allows for optimum ripeness while still acquiring the desired tannin characteristics that the area is famous for. DeCarle is the perfect complement and backbone to the blend, lending structure and opulence to the wine.

In May 2020, Bella Union released its first Sauvignon Blanc from DeCarle Vineyard in Rutherford, Napa Valley.



# Founded 2012

## Winemaking Team

Brooke Bobyak (Winemaker) Andrew Delos (Director of Winemaking)

## **CURRENT RELEASES**

2017 Bella Union Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley 2018 Bella Union Cabernet Sauvignon, Rutherford, Napa Valley 2019 Bella Union Sauvignon Blanc, Rutherford, Napa Valley





## WINEMAKER

#### **BROOKE BOBYAK**

Brooke Bobyak joined the Far Niente Family of Wineries and Vineyards in 2018 and previously served as Assistant Winemaker for Bella Union and Nickel & Nickel, before being promoted to Winemaker for Bella Union in 2021. Brooke has been privileged to work with quality vineyard sites throughout the Napa Valley, in addition to New Zealand and Tuscany, which has positioned her to expertly navigate the process of creating the Bella Union blend.

In her previous roles as Assistant Winemaker for Bella Union and Nickel & Nickel, Brooke worked closely with winemakers Michael Accurso and Joe Harden, respectively, to master the art of Napa Valley Cabernet. Before joining the Far Niente Family team, Brooke held positions at Stags' Leap Winery, HALL Family Wines, Jordan Vineyard & Winery, as well as in Hawke's Bay at Church Road Winery in New Zealand, and at Tenuta di Valgiano in Tuscany. Brooke completed a degree in Viticulture and Enology at University of California, Davis, and she spent one year at the University of Bordeaux in Dijon while studying for her undergraduate degree.



## **VINEYARDS**



Bella Union's origins lie deep in the history and geology of the Napa Valley. Bella Oaks Lane, on the northwest border of the vineyard property, was originally the Bella Union Roadway, which is the inspiration for our winery's name. This rural, dirt road led into the Mayacamas Mountains and eventually to the Bella Union Mining Company, which flourished in the 1880s.

The land was gold for the era's grape growers. Farmers like John Benson, who founded Far Niente, and John C. Sullenger, whose farmstead became home to Nickel & Nickel, owned nearby parcels and were two of the visionaries who sowed the early seeds to the valley's modern-day success as one of the world's premier Cabernet regions.



#### VINEYARD PROFILES

## Bella Union Vineyard (Cabernet Sauvignon)

Located in Rutherford along Bella Oaks Lane—hallowed ground for Napa Valley Cabernet—the 25-acre Bella Union Vineyard is planted to Cabernet Sauvignon, with a small portion devoted to Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. This western bench location offers an ideal combination of cool evenings and warm afternoons, which, in turn, allows the grapes to ripen fully and evenly. The site's well-draining, gravelly loam soil plays an equally important role, contributing to the signature character of the vineyard. The fruit is intense, beautifully proportioned and complex with aromatic ripe plum, black cherry and currant flavors.

### DeCarle Vineyard (Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc)

Stretching across the renowned Rutherford Bench, DeCarle Vineyard is situated at the toe of an alluvial fan that extends from the western Mayacamas range. Comprised of fluvial river deposits and gravelly clay from the Bale soil series, these well-draining, structured soils combined with the upper Napa Valley's warm, sunny climate yields Cabernet Sauvignon that exhibits elegant Rutherford dust and juicy berry fruit with a subtle mineral finish, and Sauvignon Blanc with vibrant acidity, flinty minerality and ripe stone-fruit and tropical flavors.