



2021 BRANDING IRON VINEYARD

Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville, Napa Valley



VINEYARD DESCRIPTION

Named for the branding iron owned by the proprietor, the eight-and-a-half 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

With very little winter rain, the 2021 growing season began under drought conditions. An equally dry spring punctuated with the windiest May in recent years brought us early budbreak and bloom. The summer months were mild with few heat spikes, allowing the vines to slowly ripen and yield small but intensely flavored grapes. An outstanding growing season for the vineyards, the closer we got to harvest, we continued to see excellent quality all around with the intensity of flavor observed in the vineyard continuing in the winery.

SENSORY EVALUATION

From the black cherry and dried herb aromatics to the sappy fruit flavors, Branding Iron Cabernet pulses with instantly approachable appeal. With deep fruit flavors that have a focused intensity yet feel round and broad on the palate, there's a compelling density we have come to expect from western Oakville Cabernet, along with coating tannins, warm toasted oak, and an extended finish.

APPELLATION

Oakville, Napa Valley

VARIETAL

100% Cabernet Sauvignon

AGING

French oak barrels
(55% new, 45% once-used)

RELEASE DATE

Fall 2023

HARVEST DATES

September 29 – October 4, 2021

SKIN CONTACT

23 days

TIME

18 months

FIRST VINTAGE

2000