



## 2011 STICKYBEAK CABERNET SAUVIGNON

WINEMAKER : Wayne Donaldson  
REGION : Napa Valley  
VARIETALS : Cabernet Sauvignon (94%), Merlot (6%)  
MATURATION : 18 months in French oak (40% new)  
ANALYSIS : 14.5% alc/vol | TA: 5.7 g/L | pH: 3.78

### VINEYARD :

Our objective is to create a seamless Cabernet Sauvignon - nothing overdone, especially the oak. To achieve this, we sought vineyards from both the valley floor in Rutherford and Oakville, and the high reaches of Diamond Mountain. The blend of earthy, fruit driven Cabernet from the valley floor combined with chiseled hillside tannins and acidity is very appealing. This, along with a small parcel of Merlot, gave us our desired palate weight and texture.

### WINEMAKING :

After harvest, it's really hands off as much as possible. To get the ball rolling, we start with a brief three day cold soak followed by an 18-day fermentation. We then allow for a two week post-ferment maceration. The varietals are kept separate during their 18-month maturation before final blending and bottling - unfinned and unfiltered.

### TASTING NOTES :

2011 was a cooler year in Napa, which is reflected in the earthy notes and minerality on the nose. On the palate, the wine is fleshy and ripe, with notes of red currant, chocolate and coffee. Rich and deep, the wine has finely structured tannins and just a hint of eucalypt on the finish.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM : 89 pts Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

ABOUT THAT NAME . . . 'Stickybeak': Australian slang for 'nosey neighbor', or to be 'overly inquisitive'. After twenty years living in California's wine country while importing regional benchmarks from the Antipodes, our curious streak got the better of us. We searched for the best sites that the California wine-growing regions in our backyard have to offer, and the grape varieties that best express their individuality. Whether its Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc from Sonoma's Russian River Valley or Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir, our wines are hand-crafted, authentic expressions of the land they come from.



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