

2015 CLOS DU VAL THREE GRACES



WINEMAKER:

Ted Henry

REGION:

Stags Leap District, Napa Valley

VARIETALS:

Cabernet Sauvignon (54%), Cabernet Franc (45%), Petit Verdot (1%)

MATURATION:

24 months in French oak barriques (100% new)

ANALYSIS:

14.5% alc/vol | TA: 6.10 g/L | pH: 3.68

VINTAGE NOTES: 2015 was a very early harvest. The season also proved to be warm, which caused the harvest to start and end early. Another major hurdle we had in Napa Valley was the series of rains in the early part of the season that washed off the pollen on the flowering grapes. This is called shatter and essentially means many of the grapes on each cluster never turned into fruit. On the positive side, the low yield ended up concentrating the flavors on the grapes we did bring into the winery and gave us some of the most concentrated wines we have seen in a long time

STORY BEHIND THE NAME: The winery's founder, John Goelet, owned a bronze sculpture of the Three Graces from 1624. Daughters of Zeus and part of the nine muses, the Three Graces represent elegance, vibrancy, and cheer - the very things Clos Du Val believes wine imparts on life.

TASTING NOTES: The 2015 Three Graces includes a blend of the best barrels of the Hirondele Estate Vineyard Cabernet Franc in addition to portions of 5 blocks of this vineyard's Cabernet Sauvignons. The Petit Verdot comes from one row planted on the fenceline of Hirondele Vineyard. The wine has a complex nose of graphite, tobacco, vanilla and blackberry. On the palate, this wine is extremely smooth and silky with layers of fruit and spice.

CRITICAL ACCLIAM: 95+ pts Vinous, 94 pts Robert Parker Wine Advocate

ABOUT CLOS DU VAL: Clos Du Val, French for "small vineyard estate of a small valley," was founded in 1972 in the renowned Stags Leap District. The winery was first recognized for its Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon at the famed Judgment of Paris in 1976, establishing its place as one of Napa Valley's most iconic winery estates. Still family-owned today, Clos Du Val farms 350 acres of estate vineyards in Napa Valley's Stags Leap District, Carneros and Yountville sub-appellations. The winery also continues to craft wines of balance and complexity, showcasing the fruit from the outstanding terroir on which the estate lies.

