

East of Napa, Left of Center

ESTATE GROWN & BOTTLED | DUNNIGAN HILLS

THE HERDSMAN

2021 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

The Wine

The Herdsman is the culmination of Matchbook's quest to create a premium Cabernet Sauvignon from the Dunnigan Hills. The vineyards chosen for the 2021 vintage are gravel-heavy sites; the type of soil that produces the most intensely flavored fruit in the appellation. Aromas of chocolate, pipe tobacco, red licorice and toasty oak lead to plush flavors of blueberry, blackberry, mocha and barrel spice. The texture is both weighty and smooth with soft tannins that lend an elegance to this estate grown Cab. Pair this rich and velvety Cabernet with a well-marbled steak, prime rib or pasta Bolognese.

The Story

The winged sheep icon is an homage to the Giguere family ranching tradition that launched their life of farming in the Dunnigan Hills. There is a long tradition of ranching in the Dunnigan Hills. The sheep farmers valued the open expanse of grasslands on gravelly soils where grazing was plentiful. And the Giguere family has been tied to that tradition since 1852. Now the sixth generation is creating their own tradition, using sheep not for wool or food but to improve the health of the soil, the health of the vines and the quality of the grapes.

The Viticulture & Winemaking

The primary source for the 2021 Herdsman was the Disney Silverado heritage Cabernet Sauvignon clone planted in our Pheasant Farm and Gravel Pit vineyards; the Petit Verdot and Petite Sirah are from the Gemmer vineyard. All were picked separately at night, gently crushed within 30 minutes of harvest, and sent to temperature controlled stainless steel tanks for fermentation. The three estate grown wines were then blended for aging. Roughly half the blend was aged in new 60 hectoliter Foudrerie Francois ovals to slowly integrate the inherent fruit flavors with just a soft touch of oak and barrel spice; the remaining blend was aged in a series of older barrels to add weight and viscosity to the wine without the char. Extended barrel aging (17 months) smoothed out any rough tannins and added elegance to the Herdsman.

The Accolades

2020 90 Points - Wine Enthusiast



Appellation

Dunnigan Hills, Estate Bottled

Vineyards

100% Matchbook, Estate Grown

Blend

78% Cabernet Sauvignon

13% Petit Verdot

9% Petite Sirah

TA **pH**

5.82 g/L

3.75

Alcohol

13.9%

Production

8,436 cases



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