

2018 BASALT

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

9 BARRELS HANDCRAFTED BY WINEMAKER ANDY ERICKSON
AVAILABLE BY ALLOCATION

ORIGINS

Basalt is the stronger counterpoint to the softer Shale, the wine we first offered from the estate in February 2021. Our Basalt selection captures the solid, muscular frame that Cabernet Sauvignon can provide when grown in rocky, challenging conditions, such as it exists on our Stags Ridge Vineyard, which sits at 1,475 ft elevation. This location provides cooler temperatures, ample sunshine, and well-drained volcanic soils. The resulting wines are deep, dark, and concentrated, with finely focused aromatics and true Cabernet Sauvignon character.

VINEYARD

Our Stags Ridge Vineyard is located 1,475 ft above Napa Valley atop Atlas Peak. Millions of years ago, the volcano in Mount St. Helena erupted creating our bountiful valley and gracing fellow mountain peaks with volcanic rock. The rocky and harsh soils were left untouched until 1999 when they were excavated and planted with grapevines.

TASTING NOTES

The high-toned, ripe black fruit aromas are effusive and fill the room: cassis, dry gravel, kirsch and sage, the true essence of the varietal. The palate impression is all about power. The wine enters with a rush of fruit flavors and savory complexities, riding on a wave of tannin—that tannin being structural but rounded and supple. This is a lesson in energy and balance: the wine wields its power with a positive intention, and brings joy in the process. This inaugural vintage of Basalt is certainly impressive now, but with time in the bottle it will only gain finesse and grace. It will easily age for 20-25 years.

WINEMAKING

Like its sister wine Shale, the 2018 Basalt is produced from 100% Cabernet Sauvignon from the estate. One immediately noticeable character is the wine's remarkable opacity, along with its deep black-purple hue. The depth of color suggests a wine of power and richness, and indeed that is delivered in spades.

