



CLICK ON A VINTAGE
BELOW:

2015 • 2014

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1995

A Vintage Compilation of Far Niente Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon

NAPA VALLEY, OAKVILLE

You may notice that this isn't your typical vintage chart. There are no scores, ratings, or vintage-by-vintage guidelines on whether to drink or hold a particular wine. We believe those decisions are truly subjective, and you'll find that, even among our expert winemaking team, everyone has a different "drink now" window for their wines.

We have 33 vintages of experience with Oakville Cabernet, and we've collected a rich archive of tasting, vineyard and farming notes over the years. The knowledge that many of our older vintages have found their way into cellars across the globe inspired us to create this 20-year narrative of Far Niente Cabernet Sauvignon*. We meticulously tasted through two decades of wine in order to accurately assess how each vintage is drinking today. The result is this interactive compilation of our wines and vineyards, Then and Now.

"Every time we taste from our library, there is a tremendous sense of continuity in Far Niente's House Style," Director of Winemaking Dirk Hampson says. "Although every wine shows the characteristics of its individual vintage, the texture, flavors, layering and proportions also reflect the personality and strengths of our Martin Stelling Vineyard, the cornerstone of our Far Niente Estate Cabernet Sauvignon." Some vintages, like 1999 and 2009, were heavily stuffed in their youth and needed time for the fruit and tannin to pull back a bit. There were sleeper vintages, like 2006, which developed an incredible magic over time. Still others, like 2005, had everything going for them right from release, yet they have continued to surprise us with their vibrancy today.

We hope you enjoy this storied timeline of our vineyards and vintages. We can't wait to surprise and delight you with 20, 30 and 50 more years of wine!

*Do you have a question about one of our vintages, from 1982 to 1994?
Please contact us at 707-944-2861 or info@farniente.com.



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2015

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

97% Cabernet Sauvignon
3% Petit Verdot

HARVEST NOTES

The growing season began with a warm, dry January. Budbreak came early and a cool, breezy spring extended bloom and the fruit set was small and concentrated. Warm, sunny June, July and August months ripened the fruit quickly, and harvest started early on September 12. By October 1, all of our Cabernet was in the winery!

TASTING NOTES ON RELEASE

Deep, concentrated aromas of chocolate-covered cherries accented by bright floral notes. Silky smooth entry with waves of dark cherry flavors supported with beautifully integrated oak, bright acidity and supple tannins. Finishes long and lush.

[Click here for availability](#)

2014

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

90% Cabernet Sauvignon
5% Petit Verdot
3% Cabernet Franc
2% Malbec

HARVEST NOTES

Late winter and early spring rains filled our reservoirs, and a warm and windy spring brought early budbreak to the vines, with fruit development about two weeks ahead of normal. Warm summer months led to beautiful, balanced growth in the vineyard. Temperatures cooled slightly toward the end of August, and September brought ideal cool nights and warm afternoons. We slowly began picking toward the end of September, picking up the pace when a short heat wave in early October pushed everything into ripeness.

TASTING NOTES ON RELEASE

Beautifully lifted clove, anise, black cherry and blackberry aromatics layered with a hint of rich oak. Round, supple entry and a silky midpalate, with cassis, clove and toasted oak complementing black and red fruit flavors. Fine-grained, age-worthy tannins and a dark, juicy finish.

[Click here for availability](#)





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2013

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

97% Cabernet Sauvignon
3% Petit Verdot

2012

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

94% Cabernet Sauvignon
5% Petit Verdot
1% Cabernet Franc

FAR NIENTE CAVE COLLECTION

One of the great pleasures of Far Niente Cabernet is the ability to enjoy favorite vintages from the Cave Collection. Our goal is to keep a 10-year vertical of our Cave Collection Cabernets on hand each year, yet the wines last only until the year's supply sells out. As the wines age carefully in ideal conditions, they evolve from the exuberance of youth to sophisticated, layered, deeply fruited vintages, revealing wines that are superb for marking a special occasion or complementing a fine meal. [Learn more](#) about this year's Cave Collection offering.

HARVEST NOTES

Marvelous growing conditions endured throughout the vintage. Dry, warm weather extended into the spring and encouraged early budbreak and bloom. Summer started with a brief heat spike in early July; perfect ripening weather followed and September 20th marked the first day of our Cabernet harvest. We enjoyed ideal end-of-harvest conditions and brought in red fruit until mid-October, when cooler night and morning temperatures slowed ripening.

TASTING NOTES — TASTED JAN. 2018

Rich aromas of chocolate-covered cherries enhanced by floral undertones. Layered palate with plush ripe berry flavors and notes of toasted oak. Finishes long and full, with integrated tannins and lush fruit flavors.

[Click here for availability](#)

HARVEST NOTES

Near perfect weather prevailed. March brought heavy spring rains, sustaining the vines through the season. Temperatures remained ideal for budbreak, flowering and fruit set. Summer brought warm days and cool nights without extreme weather, and harvest began in early October. We slowly brought in each block at optimal ripeness before the end of the month.

TASTING NOTES ON RELEASE

Opens with aromas of mixed berry and chocolate-covered cherry, hints of graphite and toasted oak. Smooth entry, with intense ripe berry notes on the palate. Focused and silky throughout, finishing with broad tannins and notes of cedar.

TASTING NOTES — TASTED JAN. 2017

Berry, cherry and chocolate aromas accented by subtle notes of graphite and vanilla oak. Classically elegant, with concentrated fruit and layered berry flavors. Broad, silky tannins and a long, progressive finish.

[Click here for availability](#)



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2011

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

92% Cabernet Sauvignon
7% Petit Verdot
1% Cabernet Franc



HARVEST NOTES

A wet and cool spring with rains and low temperatures extended the time between budbreak and bloom. Crop yields were low for Cabernet because of the unseasonable weather during set, but fortunately this allowed the vines more ripening potential during the short and cool growing season. Early rains in October and mild fall temperatures forced a rapid yet extremely selective harvest of all our Cabernet in just 10 days.

TASTING NOTES ON RELEASE

Tobacco leaf and dark cherry aromas with a whisper of floral perfume. Juicy red fruit and earth on the midpalate, with fine tannins and a light briar note lingering on the finish.

TASTING NOTES — TASTED JAN. 2016

Aromas of dusty cherry, light cedar and tobacco leaf with dried flowers and herb. Juicy entry, supple and silky midpalate, with fine-grained tannins, red cherry fruit and light cedar on the finish.

[Click here for availability](#)

2010

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

97% Cabernet Sauvignon
3% Petit Verdot

HARVEST NOTES

An El Niño winter kicked off the growing season, as the earth soaked up much-needed rainfall. Spring was cool, yet damp, which helped keep frost at bay and slightly delayed ripening. Summer, too, started out mild but warmed in late August. A warm and dry start to October helped complete Cabernet ripening, and we brought in the fruit before the fall rains.

TASTING NOTES ON RELEASE

Boysenberry and rich, toasted oak aromas with a hint of espresso. Layered entry and velvety midpalate with round, coating tannins and cherry fruit. Lingering yet youthful finish.

TASTING NOTES — TASTED JAN. 2018

Rich black current aromas complemented by hints of soft dried rosebuds and cherries. Silky entry with flavors of black currant and bramble supported by classic Cabernet herbal undertones. Finish is long, melting and refined.

[Click here for availability](#)



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VARIETAL COMPOSITION

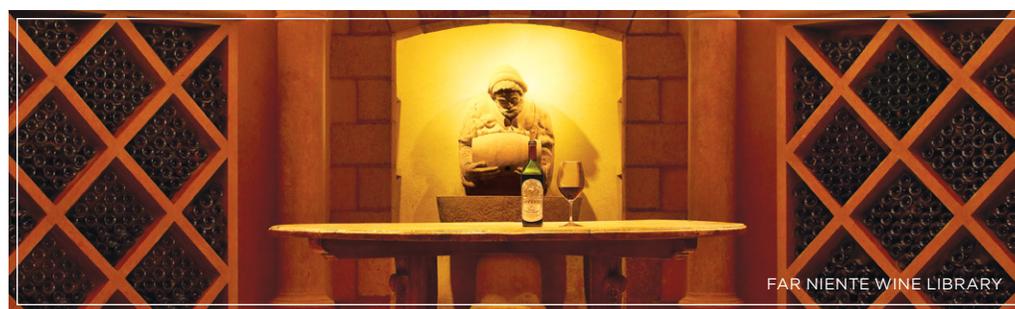
97% Cabernet Sauvignon
2% Petit Verdot
1% Cabernet Franc

HARVEST NOTES

A mild spring coupled with a touch of late-season rain ensured strong yet well-balanced vine growth. A small heat spike in early July, followed by temperate summer days, allowed the vines to steadily ripen the fruit. September arrived with the warmest weather of the season. We began picking the ripest blocks in early October before a forecasted storm.

TASTING NOTES ON RELEASE

Blackberry pie, tobacco leaf and cassis aromas, with mouthfilling black fruit and warm, spiced oak on the entry. Boysenberry, cherry and spice linger on the palate and big, firm tannins promise great aging potential.



TASTING NOTES — TASTED JAN. 2017

Bramble, dried cherry, anise spice and toasted oak on the nose. Full entry opens to a chewy, round midpalate. Structured and youthful with thick tannins and juicy red fruit. Shows great aging potential.

[Click here for availability](#)

2008

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

90% Cabernet Sauvignon
6% Petit Verdot
4% Cabernet Franc

HARVEST NOTES

Low winter rainfall, followed by a very dry and cold spring reduced yields and delayed ripening in our vineyards' coldest pockets. Our precision farming enabled us to identify and isolate these sections. Summer and early fall brought few heat spikes and development was slow and steady, ensuring ideally evolved flavor and tannin. A cool, dry October allowed us to pick each block slowly, sometimes with multiple passes, to harvest at optimum ripeness.

TASTING NOTES ON RELEASE

Ripe blackberry and boysenberry aromas layered with baking spices and licorice. A full, juicy entry and velvety middle palate, followed by dark mocha on the finish.

TASTING NOTES — TASTED JAN. 2016

Mixed berry and red cherry aromas with dusty floral accents, toasted oak and hints of baking spices and molasses. Mouth-filling upon entry with a velvety midpalate of oak, black cherry and cassis flavors persisting through a plush and melting finish.

[Click here for availability](#)



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2007

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

94% Cabernet Sauvignon
4% Cabernet Franc
2% Petit Verdot

OUR FAR NIENTE HOUSE STYLE

Far Niente Cabernet Sauvignon embodies our passion and commitment to making the very best wine possible. While each of our wines exhibit the characteristics of its particular vintage, when tasted over a range of vintages the wines are ideally kissing cousins in style and presentation. The result is classically structured Cabernets that are rich in texture, layered in flavor, complex and long.

HARVEST NOTES

A dry winter coupled with a mild spring yielded beautifully balanced vines. A mild summer allowed the fruit to ripen at a steady pace. At harvest, moderate daytime temperatures followed by very cold nighttime temperatures afforded the grapes great hang time and flavor development, without excessive sugar accumulation. A minor rain at the tail end of harvest only served to wash the dust off the berries and give us further hang time, making for a stunning vintage.

TASTING NOTES ON RELEASE

Intense blackberry and boysenberry aromas with licorice and briar patch. Full-bodied and concentrated with a silky entry, flavors of velvety chocolate and toast, and a long, layered finish.

TASTING NOTES — TASTED JAN. 2016

Aromas of cocoa powder, purple fruits and hints of lavender and tobacco. Rich entry with chocolate-covered berries, full and long finish with well integrated, melting tannins.

2006

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

94% Cabernet Sauvignon
3% Cabernet Franc
3% Petit Verdot

HARVEST NOTES

After a late budbreak, late spring and summer were cooler than normal, despite a June heat spike. Cool temps coupled with lots of late-morning fog, kept the vines about two to three weeks behind normal. Indian summer came toward the end of October, and the fruit that was patiently waiting for the right temperatures to resolve tannins ripened at an incredible pace. We picked our vineyard in 10 days, the fastest ever!

TASTING NOTES ON RELEASE

Bright with ripe, purple fruits and layered aromas of black licorice and briar patch. Full-bodied and concentrated, with a silky entry, flavors of velvety chocolate and toast. The finish is layered and lingering.

TASTING NOTES — TASTED JAN. 2016

Aromas of dried black cherry, tobacco and toasty oak with hints of lavender and dried herbs. Silky palate supported by ripe fruit flavors, with mouth-filling, finely grained tannins savored through the long finish.

[Click here for availability](#)



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2005

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

91% Cabernet Sauvignon
5% Cabernet Franc
4% Petit Verdot

HARVEST NOTES

We knew early on this would be a late harvest, but by the time all the fruit was in, it blew away expectations. Early budbreak was followed by cool temperatures. With only a few exceptionally warm days in summer, we didn't even begin to bring in Cabernet until the first part of October. Most of the fruit was brought in the last few weeks of October and into November.

TASTING NOTES ON RELEASE

Nose opens with dense, black fruit, anise and blackberries, with hints of jam and dark chocolate. Unfolds in layers in the mouth, with a supple entry, weighty midpalate and silky, coating tannins on the finish.

TASTING NOTES — TASTED JAN. 2018

Beautiful dried fruit and floral perfume followed by flavors of chocolate cherry and candied plum. Lush and round mid-palate with soft tannin and dark dried fruits on the finish.

2004

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

86% Cabernet Sauvignon
6% Petit Verdot
4% Cabernet Franc
4% Merlot

HARVEST NOTES

A cool summer extended the length of veraison and led to some uneven ripening within clusters. Napa Valley experienced a prolonged heat wave in September, producing high sugars in the berries, but without physical ripeness. A full three weeks after the heat wave's end, sugars dropped and stabilized, fruit ripened fully and we brought in the harvest.

TASTING NOTES ON RELEASE

Layered aromas of dark fruit, dark chocolate, vanilla and dusty earth followed by a full entry, with cassis and spice. Pronounced tannins balanced by an underlying silkiness.

TASTING NOTES — TASTED JAN. 2017

Aromas of dark cherry, plum and mocha supported with notes of dried floral and warm barrel spice. Juicy entry builds to a thick velvety midpalate with flavors of cherry and plum. Ripe and dense with chewy and mouth-filling tannins.



FAR NIENTE WINE CAVES



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2003

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

94% Cabernet Sauvignon
5% Petit Verdot
1% Cabernet Franc

HARVEST NOTES

The wet and rainy months of April and May were followed by a summer of intermittent hot and cool temperature spikes. More cool weather arrived in September, followed by a heat spike that enabled us to bring in some Cabernet, although the majority was not ready. Temperatures finally heated up in mid-October and we brought in nearly all of the fruit during the last two weeks of the month.



TASTING NOTES ON RELEASE

Forward aromas of cassis and licorice with notes of black currant. A plush, silky entry moves into blackberry and black cherry flavors on the palate.

TASTING NOTES — TASTED JAN. 2016

Bright boysenberry jam, perfume and anise aromas, with hints of a classic bottle bouquet with florals and spice. Ripe mixed fruit, cedar oak and cassis on the palate. Soft, melting tannins and a long, graceful finish.

2002

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

90% Cabernet Sauvignon
5% Cabernet Franc
3% Merlot
2% Petit Verdot

HARVEST NOTES

A cool spring led to later budbreak and bloom, and mild temperatures prevailed throughout the summer. Humidity was also low throughout the summer, with almost no morning fog, which is extremely unusual for the Napa Valley. Toward the end of September, hot drying winds—the likes of which we haven't seen since the 1991 vintage—caused sugars to jump significantly. We brought in most of the fruit over two to three days in early October.

TASTING NOTES ON RELEASE

Concentrated aromas of black cherry, black currant, tobacco and spice, with notes of black fruit on the palate. Long, velvety finish.

TASTING NOTES — TASTED JAN. 2016

A soft perfume of dried fruit, tobacco and black licorice aromas with nuanced oak notes. Fruit-forward entry with a soft and supple midpalate, layered berry fruit and spice, and a long, chewy and smooth finish.

[Click here for availability](#)



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2001

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

93% Cabernet Sauvignon
4% Merlot
3% Petit Verdot

HARVEST NOTES

Spring frosts were followed by a moderate growing season, with a couple of May and July heat spikes leading to a “hurry up and wait” harvest. Although crush seemed like it would start after a heat spell in early August, the weather shifted and remained cool for about two to three weeks. After waiting through the cooler weather, we brought most of our fruit in the last week of September and the first week of October and were ultimately rewarded with a ripe, layered wine.

TASTING NOTES ON RELEASE

Huckleberry, dark cocoa and chocolate aromas complemented by a touch of vanilla. Soft and lush entry followed by a dense midpalate layered with boysenberry and black fruits. Chewy, smooth tannins linger through the long finish.

TASTING NOTES — TASTED JAN. 2016

Chocolate-covered black cherry layered with an elegant bottle bouquet of tobacco and dried floral notes. Silky upon entry, the palate has a subtle savory quality. Long juicy finish with a hint of well-knit oak and fine-grained tannins that seem to melt.

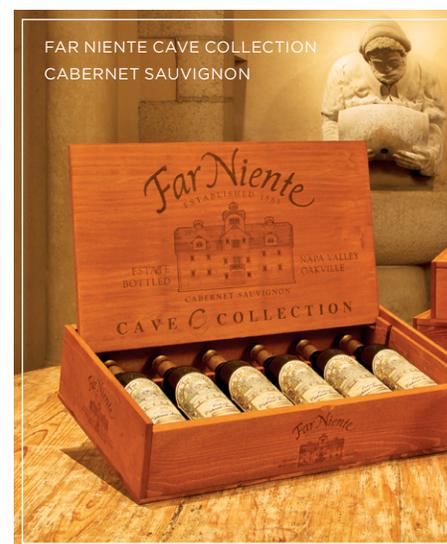
2000

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

84% Cabernet Sauvignon
13% Merlot
3% Cabernet Franc

HARVEST NOTES

A moderate growing season with a couple of spring heat spikes followed a relatively mild summer. Harvest began about one week later than usual, with all of the fruit coming in just before the weather turned unseasonably cool for October.



TASTING NOTES ON RELEASE

Bright raspberry aromas with complementary layers of cassis, cedar and oak. A soft, supple wine with moderate tannins.

TASTING NOTES — TASTED JAN. 2018

Elegant bouquet of dried floral and baking spices. Silky entry with focused red fruit on the palate and smooth, fine-grained tannins.



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1999

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

78% Cabernet Sauvignon
21% Merlot
1% Cabernet Franc

1998

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

77% Cabernet Sauvignon
15% Merlot
8% Cabernet Franc



HARVEST NOTES

A magnificent vintage, with a cool spring and ideally moderate growing season. Bud formation and flowering produced a small crop load, but the lower yields—which ripened long and fully on the vine—provided more power and concentration to the finished wine.

TASTING NOTES ON RELEASE

Substantial cassis and dark blackberry aromas mirrored on the palate with great density and depth. Lush ripeness marries elegantly with the toasty char of the French oak.

TASTING NOTES — TASTED JAN. 2017

Classic bottle bouquet aromas of dried cherry, potpourri and tea leaves balanced with hints of rhubarb and earth. Layered dried cherry and soft herbal flavors mirrored on the palate. Medium weight with a silky progression and a juicy finish highlighted with bright acidity and fine grain tannins.

HARVEST NOTES

Cool temperatures persisted from spring into early June. The weather shifted mid-month, with extremely hot days tempered by cool evenings. To preserve the quality of the vintage, we dropped about half of the crop. Although production was small, the resulting wine was showy and plush.

TASTING NOTES ON RELEASE

Subtle blackberry and cassis flavors complemented by cedar-oak aromas and dust. Round California ripeness with a firm core that maintains grace.

TASTING NOTES — TASTED JAN. 2016

Dried fruit and coffee bean aromas with hints of savory herbs and Worcestershire sauce. A concentrated palate with cherry cola flavors balanced by excellent tannin structure and a long mouth-filling finish.



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1997

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

75% Cabernet Sauvignon
18% Merlot
7% Cabernet Franc

HARVEST NOTES

Warm temperatures led to a favorable Cabernet growing season, with evenings remaining warmer than usual but never reaching potentially damaging temperatures. The vineyards ripened to perfection in September.

THE MARTIN STELLING VINEYARD

The cornerstone of our Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, the Martin Stelling Vineyard in Oakville is planted on beautiful, gravelly loam soil and produces wines of supple tannins, bright, forward fruit and considerable depth.

The vineyard is named for Martin Stelling, the previous owner of the land, who presided over what was reputed to be the largest fine wine vineyard in the world, comprising over 5000 acres in the Napa Valley. Unfortunately, Mr. Stelling died before he was able to make wine from his holdings, and it fell to his son, Doug, to plant the vineyard in 1978. Today, the vineyard is planted to Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot on some of the most beautiful, gravelly loam soil in the Napa Valley. The site borders other notable Oakville vineyards, including Martha's Vineyard, the Mondavi Reserve blocks and Harlan Estate.

TASTING NOTES ON RELEASE

Cedar-oak aromas with a hint of dust, followed by blackberry and cassis on the palate. Soft and layered, with wonderful texture and elegance.

TASTING NOTES — TASTED JAN. 2016

Savory and spicy on the nose, with cherry, sage, light tobacco and molasses. Round entry, rich and full midpalate, with flavors of black currant, cola and spice. A long finish, mouth-filling with rich tannin.

1996

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

81% Cabernet Sauvignon
14% Cabernet Franc
5% Merlot

HARVEST NOTES

A normal start, with small amounts of rainfall extending all the way into June, led to warm summer days and cool evenings and an early mid-September harvest.

TASTING NOTES ON RELEASE

Dusty oak aromas open onto subtle blackberry and cassis flavors. A classically structured, soft, and layered wine with a beautiful silkiness and unusual grace.

TASTING NOTES — TASTED JAN. 2016

Perfume of dried roses and herbs, with hints of cedar and light vanilla bean. Juicy entry with dried cherry, plum and black licorice flavors. Balanced palate, supple and silky, with a bright and juicy finish.



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VARIETAL COMPOSITION

81% Cabernet Sauvignon
14% Cabernet Franc
5% Merlot

HARVEST NOTES

Remarkable fall weather added intensity and roundness to a vintage that was in danger of remaining underdeveloped. This vintage often remains shadowed by 1994, but is more robust and chewy.

TASTING NOTES ON RELEASE

Toasted oak and dust on the nose, with rich blackberry and cassis upon entry. Wonderful texture, power, and intensity. Soft and mouth filling now, while further bottle aging will provide a longer and more velvety texture.

TASTING NOTES — TASTED JAN. 2016

Bottle bouquet aromas of dried herbs, coffee and earth, with a hint of dried floral and black fruit. Round, expansive midpalate, with earth and bramble flavors complemented by a touch of spice. A soft finish with well-knit tannin.

