

2015 ESTATE CABERNET FRANC
 HIRONDELLE VINEYARD
 STAGS LEAP DISTRICT, NAPA VALLEY



APPELLATION:	Stags Leap District, Napa Valley
VINEYARD:	Hirondelle Estate
COMPOSITION:	90% Cabernet Franc, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon
FERMENTATION:	Stainless steel tanks
AGING:	18 months in 83% new French oak
ACID:	6.1 g/L
pH:	3.7
ALCOHOL:	14.7%
SOIL TYPE:	Gravelly loam
HARVESTED:	September 4-21, 2015
BOTTLING:	June 22, 2017
PRODUCTION:	580 cases produced

WINEMAKER'S INSIGHT

Primarily a blend of two Stags Leap District Cabernet Franc lots within our estate Hirondelle Vineyard, this wine also includes fruit from an exceptional Cabernet Sauvignon lot proven to historically stand above the rest. Showcasing classic varietal aromas of menthol and stone, the palate displays full bodied flavors including dusted chocolate and fresh mint followed by a seductively velvet finish.

HARVEST

The 2015 growing season proved to be warm and at times, quite hotter than normal, meaning that harvest started and ended early. Along with the unusual heat, the Napa Valley experienced a series of rains in the early part of the season that washed pollen off of the flowering grapes. When this condition called "shatter" happens, some flowers do not turn into fruit and essentially means that many of the grapes on each cluster never form. The resulting low yield meant we had a significantly smaller crop and a smaller production of many of our wines. However, the 'less is more' theory gave us some of the best, most concentrated fruit have seen in a long time, delivering beautiful, fruit forward wines in the end.

HISTORY

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 the Stags Leap District, Carneros and Yountville appellations and continues to craft wines of balance and complexity, showcasing the fruit from the outstanding terroir on which our estate lies.