



2014 CABERNET SAUVIGNON



The Central Coast of California is home to a number of grape growing regions that are exceptional for producing world-class Cabernet Sauvignon wines. From the Santa Ynez Valley to the south to the Livermore Valley in the north, there are several appellations that yield wines that are unique and terroir-driven. I have the opportunity to cull the finest grapes from a handful of these to put together a wine that encompasses the best characteristics that each area has to offer. The 2014 Cycles-Gladiator Cabernet Sauvignon is a blend of wines made from three vineyards. One is located on the east side of Paso Robles and offers bright red fruits to the blend. Another comes from the Indian Valley of southern Monterey County and provides the structure. The final Cab component, which makes up the majority of the blend, comes from the Collier Canyon Vineyard located on the north hills above the city of Livermore on south facing slopes. This is where the flavors come from. I have also added a little Merlot from Paso Robles to tie all of the disparate flavors together.

Grapes were harvested over a one and a half month period starting in mid-September. The lots were all fermented separately and blended at about the 6 month point. About 30% saw a mix of new French and American wood. The wine was finally finished up in September of 2015 and bottled during the third week of October. I'm pumped at the results.

This is a dark and brooding wine. Aromas of blackberry jam, cedar, with a hit of cardamom. Plum entry that opens up into a mouthful of black cherry Jolly Ranchers and other dark fruits. Tannins start gracefully enough and become dusty and pronounced towards the finish. There's a considerable amount of lush, sweet fruits in the midpalate that carries well into the finish thanks to a thread of acidity. This is a classic steak wine. It has the depth of flavors to bring out the best in a ribeye while cutting through the fat. I'd also try pairing with polish sausages and a hearty pasta dish slathered in a tomato-based sauce.

Varietal:
80% Cabernet
Sauvignon; 12% Merlot;
8% Syrah

Appellation:
100% Central Coast

TA: 0.55 g/100ml
pH: 3.70
Alcohol: 13.8%

Oak regimen:
18% New French,
15% New American,
Balance Neutral Oak

ABOUT THE WINEMAKER



Working on his passion for over 20 years, Adam LaZarre is one of California's most acclaimed winemakers, having won the LA Int'l Wine Competition a record 3 times, amongst numerous other accolades.

Cheers,

Adam LaZarre
Adam LaZarre, Winemaker