



2014 “RAISON D’ETRE” NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Vineyard stewardship is arguably the highest purpose, the “Raison D’Etire”, for a first growth winery like Pahlmeyer. Hence the naming of this wine to reflect our dedication to farming in extreme mountain conditions, 1,500 – 2,200 feet above the Napa Valley floor, to yield fruit of great intensity and concentration.

COMPOSITION		100% Cabernet Sauvignon
VINEYARD		Pahlmeyer Estate
HARVESTED		September 16 to October 3, 2014
FERMENTATION		100% native yeast
BARREL REGIMEN		22 months in 100% new French oak
FINISHING		Bottled unfinned and unfiltered
ALCOHOL		15.7% by vol.
BOTTLED		August 15, 2016
RELEASE		October 2017
PRODUCTION		7 barrels

WINEMAKING

After harvest in the cool morning hours, grapes were hand-sorted, then gently destemmed. The resulting whole berries were hand-sorted and 30% were delivered to ferment in 500L oak puncheons to soften the tannins and deepen the color. The remaining berries were fermented in stainless steel open top tanks to capture a juicy and fresh flavor profile. Once complete, the fruit was gently pressed and moved to barrel to finish fermentation. The wine continued to age in 100% new Seguin Moreau French oak barrels for 22 months. It was bottled unfinned and unfiltered.

TASTING NOTES

In the glass, this wine displays a deep garnet hue. Aromas range from intensely floral violet and morning sea breeze to ripe berries, cardamom, black licorice and forest floor. On the palate, the wine reveals concentrated blackberry and marionberry supported by supple, linen-like tannins. Rich dark chocolate plays out over an endless finish. The wine’s remarkable structure will allow it to age over the next 15 to 20 years.

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2014 growing season in Napa Valley was the third in a string of stunning vintages. Dry, mild temperatures brought on early budbreak, while the persistent drought helped produce small berries with concentrated flavors and elegant tannins. The overall length of the growing season was normal, allowing for full ripening and fresh, balanced acidity; however, given the early start to the crop, it was our earliest harvest on record. This year will go down in history for the earthquake that rocked Napa just days before harvest. Fortunately, our winery and vineyard were safe, but the greater community was deeply impacted, and the event defined the entire season.