



2014 Hesperian Cabernet Sauvignon

Napa Valley

Description

This wine is a luscious mouthful of Cabernet with notes of dark chocolate, poached cherries, blackberry, and blackcurrants. It will age through 2028 handily. James Suckling loved its “Aromas of blackberries and blueberries with hints of sweet tobacco. Full body and solid and chewy tannins. Powerful finish. Structured and rich red.”

Vineyard

Kitoko Vineyard, named for the Congolese Lingala word for “beautiful,” is a 14.2- acre vineyard high on Atlas Peak, planted to Cabernet Sauvignon in 2000 and 2003.

The soils here are extremely rocky, dry, and poor, quite similar to Pritchard Hill to the north, studded with fractured andesite rock and boulders. The proximity to the San Pablo Bay brings persistent winds which—along with the heat and arid soil, cause the set of very small berries and loose bunches, and consistently delay ripening each year. Dry farming is not possible here, and the vines are watered for brief stretches to optimize ripening.

The Harvest

2014 was the penultimate “drought vintage” of the 2012-2015 string of warm, dry harvests. Mild weather with few heat spikes produced balanced, full-bodied wines with perhaps a little more subtlety and grace than the powerful 2013 and 2015 vintages.

ALCOHOL LEVEL:	14.6%
CÉPAGE:	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
ÉLEVAGE:	20 Months in 80% new French oak
PRODUCTION:	250 cases
OPTIMAL AGING:	2019 – 2030
CRITICAL ACCLAIM:	93 Points James Suckling