



CORNERSTONE  
CELLARS • NAPA VALLEY

## 2016 Benchlands Cabernet Sauvignon

Founded in 1991 by Michael Dragutsky, Cornerstone Cellars is the quintessential Napa Valley mountain and benchland producer of Cabernet Sauvignon. Our winemaking led by Kari Auringer honors Napa Valley's great heritage by crafting intense, elegant and balanced wines that stand among the very best winegrowing estates in the world. Through intellectual rigor, humility, and with the utmost respect for the land, Cornerstone Cellars aims to make wines that truly speak to its exceptional vineyard sites in the most authentic and genuine way possible.



### 2016 Vintage

Throughout most of California the winter months finally brought us substantial, nourishing rains after four long years of drought, giving stressed vineyards and winemakers some relief. An early, warm spring triggered a slightly early budbreak, with veraison also starting early in many vineyards. All evidence pointed to 2016 being another early vintage, until the mild summer days bathed the vineyards in moderate temperatures and stretched the ripening season a little longer than expected. Long sunny days with moderate temperatures allowed us to hang the fruit on the vines a little longer, achieving ideal ripeness without intervention from Mother Nature.

### The Vineyards

The vineyard composition changes a little each year, giving us the ability to make the best wine possible utilizing our best vineyards on the valley floor. Each vintage has Cabernet Sauvignon from Rutherford, St. Helena and Oakville. The Merlot and Cabernet Franc are from the illustrious Oakville Station.

### 2016 Tasting Notes

With big, bold aromas, this Cabernet is not even a little bit shy. Black berry, dark Bing cherry and a hint of licorice notes lead the charge, with a touch of vanilla and a touch of ripe plum close behind. First sip is as smooth and luscious as you might expect. The sweet black fruit at the start is intertwined with complex layers of cassis, dark chocolate, blueberries and baking spice. The finish lingers with spice and sweet fruit, on a bed of supple tannins, which simply begs for another sip. This has everything we have come to know and love about Cabernet grown in the best viticultural areas of Napa Valley.

### 2016 Winemaking Notes

Vintage:	2016
Appellation:	100% Napa Valley
Varietals:	88% Cabernet Sauvignon 6% Merlot 4% Cabernet Franc 2% Petit Verdot
Harvest Date:	September 24, 2016
Cooperage:	65% New French oak, 35% 2-Year French oak
Alcohol:	15.2%
pH:	3.8
TA:	5.5 g/L
Bottling date:	February 20, 2019
Production:	2,644 6-pak cases
Retail:	\$75