

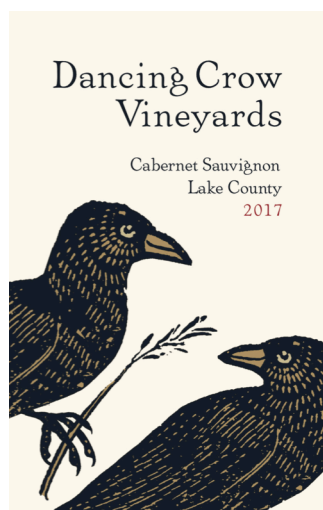
Dancing Crow Vineyards

2017 Lake County Cabernet Sauvignon

The Growing Season

Excellent quality and generous yields were seen throughout most of Lake County and its sub-appellations in 2017. Harvest began a week or so later than normal and continued through mid-October, with a few vintners still picking during the last week of the month. The rains of winter were well received and replenished the much-needed ground water, and were particularly valuable in helping the land to heal from the 2015 and 2016 wildfires. The end of the growing season saw a few heat spikes, but no detrimental effects were reported as growers used preemptive irrigation to avert vine stress – and Lake County grapes tend to be more resilient due to their increased

UV light exposure. October saw a return to cooler temperatures, giving the fruit opportunity for longer hangtime, which winemakers reported, added to the depth and complexity of the 2017 vintage.



Winemaking

The later harvest and additional hangtime was particularly beneficial for Lake County's Cabernet harvest, with the fruit showing excellent quality, structure and intensity. The winemaking for this vintage focused on tempering the firm tannins of the Lake County's Red Hills and Big Valley AVAs by blending cool climate Merlot from Mendocino. The final blend includes 89% Cabernet Sauvignon (51% Red Hills AVA and 38% Big Valley AVA) and 11% Mendocino County Merlot. This wine illustrates how the intensity of Lake County Cabernet is perfectly complimented by cool - yet lively - Merlot from Mendocino.

The Land

The Red Hills AVA of Lake County is located in the northern Mayacamas Mountains, along the southwest edge of Clear Lake. At elevations of 2000-2500 feet, the vineyards of the Red Hills are a distinctive deep red, iron-rich volcanic soil that result in grapes with thicker skins for more robust flavors. The Big Valley AVA of Lake County is located along the western edge of Clear Lake at 1400 feet and consists of fertile blocks of clay and loam soils along its valley floor. During summer, these two Lake County AVAs see 90-100 degree daytime temperatures that are moderated by cool afternoon airflows, which are pulled from the Pacific Ocean across the Mayacamas range by the elevation and sheer size of Clear Lake. This unique environment allows for a true expression of Bordeaux grape varieties at moderate levels of sugar and thus lower alcohol, producing elegant Cabernets with layered complexity and refined structure.

Winemaker's Tasting Impressions

Aromas of cherry, blackberry and sandalwood are ever-present on the nose. The palate is focused and fruit forward, with pure plum, cherry and cedar flavors predominating. The tannins are supple, yet persistent, carrying the wine to a long-lasting, bright finish. 2017 shows a vintage of coolness, elegance and balance, and typifies the best of what Lake County has to offer.

Varietals: 89% Cabernet Sauvignon 11% Merlot	Appellations: 51% Red Hills AVA 38% Big Valley AVA 11% Mendocino AVA
Elevation: 2000 – 2500 ft.	pH: 3.85
Aging: 8 months (med-toast) French Oak	Alcohol: 14.3%

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