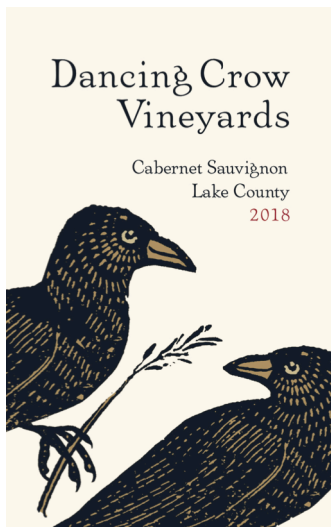


Dancing Crow Vineyards

2018 Lake County Cabernet Sauvignon

The Growing Season

The 2018 Lake County Harvest got underway about a week later than last year. Spring brought an unusually plentiful set, as a result of well timed May rain, followed by a sunny finish to that month. June continued the warming trend and July provided the heat that tempered berry size. By late September, the region's warm, summer temperatures gave way to mild, fall, coastal temperatures, which allowed for longer hang time. This "coastal effect" preserved the subtlety of aroma that is often lost in warmer vintages. While vineyard managers noted a larger crop than the prior year, sugars and acids were well balanced, leading growers and vintners to be optimistic about fruit quality.



Winemaking

This wine consists of fruit from Lake County's Red Hills and Big Valley AVAs, both of which are known for creating beautifully, bold, yet balanced red wines. Also included is 15% Mendocino Cabernet, to take advantage of the effects from the cooler climate, by softening the firm tannins of Lake County. The addition of 15% Red Hills Malbec enhanced the concentration of the wine and imparted brambly, blackberry flavors. The 2018 vintage's longer hangtime was particularly advantageous, with the fruit showing excellent richness, intensity and structure. The winemaking for this vintage focused on highlighting the deeper, darker notes on the Red Hills fruit while adding a smooth, velvety finish with the addition of Mendocino Cabernet. The final blend includes 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Malbec (50% Red Hills Cabernet, 15% Mendocino Cabernet, 20% Big Valley Cabernet and 15% Red Hills Malbec).

The Land

Lake County's Red Hills AVA is located in the northern Mayacamas mountain range, along the southwest edge of Clear Lake in Northern California. Vineyard elevations range from 1,350 – 2,600 feet, showcasing soils that are volcanic in origin and characteristically deep, red, and iron-rich that result in grapes with thicker skins and 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 terroir produces wine with perfect acidity, improved tannin structure and darker, more complex fruit characteristics.

Winemaker's Tasting Impressions

This Cabernet highlights aromas of cassis, and mocha, which lead into luscious flavors of ripe cherry, blueberry and dark chocolate, with a sustained note of blackberry on the smooth, velvety finish.

Varietals: 85% Cabernet Sauvignon
15% Malbec

Elevation: 1400 – 2500 ft.

Cases Produced: 3400

pH: 3.93

Appellations: Red Hills AVA, Big Valley AVA,
Mendocino AVA

Alcohol: 14.5%

Aging: 5 mo. French, American & Hungarian Oak

TA: 5.3 g/L

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