

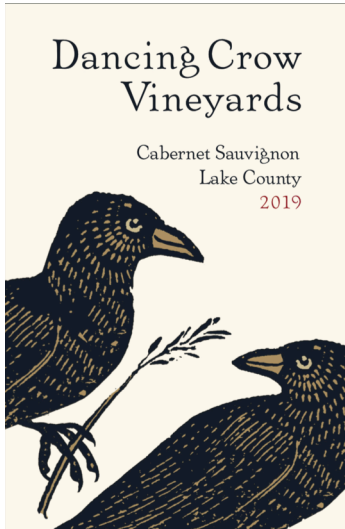
Dancing Crow

2019 Cabernet Sauvignon – Lake County

The Growing Season

The 2019 Lake County growing season was dynamic, starting with a significant amount of winter rain that replenished local wells and reservoirs. Rains continued into February, with conditions being cool and wet into spring, delaying budbreak and bloom by about a week. These cool temperatures followed throughout late spring allowing the grapes to mature gradually at lower sugar levels. Consistently warm midsummer temperatures encouraged steady ripening, culminating in excellent vine growth with nicely sized clusters. August saw a rise in temperatures that pushed harvest dates back near their usual

timeframes. We began picking about a week later than normal – after waiting for the perfect sugar levels to develop to allow the fruit to display its beautiful full flavors, fresh acidity and superb balance.



Winemaking

Our winemakers David and Katharine DeSante created a sumptuous Bordeaux-style Cabernet with refined structure yet a hint of brightness. This wine consists of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon blended with 20% Merlot (25% of the fruit comes from the Red Hills AVA, with the other 62% coming from the Big Valley AVA). The Mendocino Cabernet imparts the wine with enhanced floral notes and gives the palate some softness and a velvety mouthfeel. The Lake County Cabernet adds backbone to the wine while contributing a densely ripe fruit profile, due to the elevation and warm days just before harvest. Aging includes 67% French and 33% American oak with 40% being new.

The Land

Lake County, California is located east of the Mayacamas mountain range, near Clear Lake, just north of the Napa Valley. Vineyard elevations range from 1,350 – 2,600 feet, showcasing soils that are volcanic in origin and characteristically deep, red, and iron-rich, which result in grapes with thicker skins and more robust flavors. The slightly cooler climate of Mendocino provides an element of brightness and lively aromatics as a perfect compliment to the Lake County fruit. During summer, Lake County sees hot 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 a balanced, elegant Cabernet with refined structure and layered complexity.

Winemaker's Tasting Impressions

This wine exhibits floral raspberry and Assam tea aromas, which are accented by succulent flavors of ripe cherries, pomegranate and dark chocolate. The finish boasts a fresh fig ensemble that highlights this wine's seamless structure and complexity that develops from the first sip to the last.

Varietals: 80% Cabernet Sauvignon
20% Merlot

Aging: 6 mo. French & American Oak

Alcohol: 14.5%

Appellations: 87% Lake County
13% Mendocino County

pH: 3.88

Acidity: 5.5 g/L

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