

2021 Favia Cabernet Sauvignon Coombsville Napa Valley

Our offering of pure Cabernet Sauvignon from Coombsville represents our best expression of the historic, however newly ascendant, appellation in the southeast corner of the Napa Valley. We have been working with vineyards in this area for nearly two decades and it is home to our winery. Its gravelly, volcanic soils and proximity to San Pablo Bay combine to lend the wines an old-world quality, delivered at an impressive level of concentration and depth.

2021, was a vintage defined by small crops and great intensity. The growing season was dry, but relatively mild temperatures in Coombsville made for wines with varietal correctness and remarkable balance and precision. Dark color and a solid structural framework provide the foundation for a wine that shows the full spectrum of this noble variety: bay leaf, blackberry, graphite, oolong, and fresh red cherry are just a few of the descriptors that come to mind. Twenty-two months of barrel aging helped to round the tannins, and bottling without filtration or fining ensure that the true expression of the vineyard and varietal is what lands in the glass. This wine should age in bottle for easily two decades or more.

22 months in barrel, 1 year in bottle. No fining or filtration. French oak, 50% new.
100% Cabernet Sauvignon

Vintage Notes and Reviews

The 2021 growing season fell in the middle of a multi-year drought in California. With very little winter and spring rain, the vines worked hard to develop canopies, and in the end set a relatively small crop. Luckily, summer temperatures were relatively mild, with only a couple of days with peak temperatures over 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38C). This meant that the fruit was able to mature slowly, and fruit quality at harvest was balanced and concentrated. In fact, the ample sun exposure of the fruit led to remarkable phenolic development, with the grapes at harvest having very dark color and highly structured tannins.

The harvest arrived relatively early, and at Favia we were harvesting our Oakville fruit beginning on September 7. The mild temperatures allowed us to continue harvesting methodically for over a month, with the last Coombsville Cabernet Sauvignon coming into the winery on October 13. This long harvest gave us a broad spectrum of blending components with which to craft our 2021 wines.

Across the board, the 2021 wines from Favia show great depth, pleasant natural acidity, and strong varietal expression. The vintage shows all the power and richness expected from Napa Valley, and with a tannic backbone that will allow the wines to age for decades to come.

LISA PEROTTI-BROWN/THE WINE INDEPENDENT January 2024 - 98 points

Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Coombsville explodes with bombastic notes of creme de cassis, black cherry preserves, and boysenberries giving way to nuances of cedar, graphite, and lavender oil. The full-bodied palate is jam packed with intense black and blue fruit layers supported by a solid line of firm grainy tannins and amazing tension, finishing long and with wonderful purity.

ANTONIO GALLONI/VINOUS October 2023 - 97 points

The 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Coombsville, 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, offers tons of nuance and Coombsville character. Savory and wonderfully deep, the 2021 captures all the pedigree of this great vintage. Lavender, crushed rocks, graphite and rose petals all run through this fleshy Cabernet Sauvignon.

JAMES SUCKLING December 2023 - 97 points

This is full of aromas of lead pencil, black berries and black currants. Deep and dark. Full to medium body, with juicy and layered tannins and a flavorful finish. Very grapey. Precise and focused. Real Coombsville character. Drinkable and will age beautifully.

JEB DUNNUCK August 2023 - 96+ points

The 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Coombsville is all varietal that, like all these latest 2021s, was brought up in 50% new French oak. It has more blue fruit as well as a full-bodied, incredibly layered style in its full-bodied aromas and flavors of graphite, scorched earth, tobacco, and obvious minerality. It's a big, concentrated 2021, but it nevertheless holds onto a beautiful sense of freshness and balance, which is what I think sets this vintage apart. As with the La Magdalena, it's not for the instant gratification crowd, since it probably won't hit full maturity until a decade after the vintage, but I'd be shocked if it didn't have 30 years of overall longevity.

JANE ANSON - Review not yet published

JOE D'ANGELO/INTERNATIONAL WINE REPORT - Review not yet published

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