

2021 Favia LA MAGDALENA Red Wine Napa Valley

A wine that can be traced back to our earliest days making wine together, La Magdalena is a blend of equal parts Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon from the renowned Oakville Ranch, high in the eastern hills of Napa Valley's most famous appellation. Organically farming with intention, harvesting at optimum ripeness, and carefully shepherding the wines through fermentation and maceration, yields a wine with remarkable depth, a silky texture, and eye-opening complexity. The dance of these two varieties together is what excites us most about making wine in the Napa Valley.

2021 was a dry but mild year. The vines set quite a modest crop in terms of quantity, but the depth and intensity of the fruit was remarkable. This made for a vivid expression of both these varieties, grown in one of the best terroirs in the world. These red volcanic soils consistently give the wines a sense of strength, with dark fruit character and also notes of loam, underbrush, and exotic spices. This vintage of La Magdalena is dialed up in terms of aromatics, structure, and concentration. The dense blackberry and currant aromas and flavors are enhanced by hints of licorice, orange blossom, and *garrigue*. It is firm but accessible in its youth and will certainly evolve with time in the cellar.

22 months in barrel, 1 year in bottle. No fining or filtration. French oak, 50% new.
52% Cabernet Franc, 48% 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.

JEB DUNNUCK August 2023 – 95+ points

The 2021 La Magdalena is an even split of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc that's all from the Oakville Ranch Vineyard. It's a more inward, closed wine yet has incredible potential in its darker red and blue fruits as well as notes of spring flowers and graphite. With integrated oak, medium to full-bodied richness, beautiful tannins, and a mineral-laced finish, it's another 2021 that's built for the cellar. Hide bottles for 4-6 years and enjoy over the following 20+ years.

ANTONIO GALLONI/VINOUS October 2023 - 98 points

The 2021 La Magdalena is fabulous. Dark, pliant and super-expressive, the 2021 possesses notable depth from start to finish. Plum, fresh blueberry, mocha, gravel, spice and leather all meld together in this captivating Cabernet Franc/Cabernet Sauvignon blend from Oakville Ranch. In a word: dazzling.

LISA PEROTTI-BROWN/THE WINE INDEPENDENT January 2024 - 97 points

Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2021 La Magdalena is composed of 50% Cabernet Franc and 50% Cabernet Sauvignon from Oakville Ranch. Notes of black cherries, creme de cassis, and juicy plums burst from the glass, followed by hints of clove oil, dark chocolate, and licorice. The full-bodied palate is vibrant, refreshing, and light on its feet, with energetic black fruit and spicy layers leading to a long and lifted finish.

JAMES SUCKLING December 2023 - 97 points

Black currant, crushed stone, and some black licorice aromas follow through to a full body with earth, bark and mushrooms. Fresh herbs. Blue fruits. Some gravelly undertones. Medium to full body, fine and stony tannins and a fresh finish. Oakville. More fruit driven. Drinkable, but better after 2026.

JANE ANSON – Review not yet published

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

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