

CHATEAU MONTELENA

Chateau Montelena's 19th century stone structure stands as a quality icon in Napa Valley, consistently producing some of the finest wines in California.



Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2008

Napa Valley, California

ESTATE

Chateau Montelena's history is one of the deepest and most storied in the Napa Valley and California. Founded just north of Calistoga in 1882, it was one of the largest wineries in the state. Prohibition put an end to Montelena's winemaking, and the next major era began in 1968, when Jim Barrett purchased the estate. Jim fell in love with this exceptional property, blessed with a complex mix of soils, slopes and biodiversity of wildlife and fauna. He had a dream of creating wine at the level of the great First Growths of Bordeaux, and set about replanting the vineyard, outfitting the winery with modern equipment, and studying the processes necessary for farming and winemaking at the highest quality level.

WINE

Jim Barrett's dream of Chateau Montelena was that this wine, their flagship Cabernet Sauvignon, achieve the balance and complexity of flavors, aromas and textures to be considered among the great examples of Cabernet in the world. Almost since his first vintages in the 1970s, this wine has been a show-stopper that has everything in place, while revealing the majesty and distinctive character of the estate vineyard site that the Barretts led to recognition as its own appellation, Calistoga. Today, the 50-year legacy of excellence in farming, crafting and blending compelling wines and continued innovation is what sets Chateau Montelena Winery apart.

VINEYARD

Soils: The diversity of soils and slopes in the Estate Vineyard directly translates to layers of complexity and depth in the glass. It is comprised of varied terrain, from flat to steep hillsides with sedimentary, alluvial and volcanic soils
Farming: This wine is made from 100% estate fruit, all of which is sustainably farmed and produced in their solar powered winery.

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: 98% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc

Fermentation: Temperature-controlled stainless steel tanks to allow the wines to ferment slowly and evenly.

Aging: 22 months in French oak barrels (34% new)

Alcohol: 13.9% ABV

VINTAGE

A cold frosty spring caused some damage and reduced the size of the crop, then the heat and wind showed up right in time for bloom, resulting in widespread shatter, again reducing the crop here on the Estate. The heart of the growing season was actually quite nice and normal, but then the heat showed up for the harvest pushing some of the fruit to dehydration and serving up the final challenge of the season. Despite all these challenges, 2008 produced an incredible, concentrated and exceptional Estate Cabernet that is very representative of the vintage.

Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

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