

Ceritas

2014 PETER MARTIN RAY
CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Dear Friends,

We apologize in getting our release letter to you a day late. As many of you know, wildfires have engulfed over 70,000 acres in CA, predominately in Sonoma and Napa. Thankfully our family and crew are safe. As we end this year's release schedule with the 2014 Peter Martin Ray Cabernet Sauvignon, our hearts remain with our friends and colleagues during this difficult time.

John + Phoebe

A few particulars about the site: the vineyard sits on a north-south running ridge high above the San Jose Valley at 1600 feet. Meager soils with exceptional drainage force the dry farmed vines to search deep into the fractured bedrock for water, nutrients and life. Head trained with California sprawl canopies make for challenging farming with fruit exposed in a 360 degree radius. Raw farmed with little to no inputs to soil allow one of the most direct expressions of terroir in California. This is a wine of history, a wine of pedigree and a wine you will want to pull out of your cellar 20+ years from now. It's that good.

The grapes were brought to the winery on September 6, a full 10 days earlier than in 2013. Weather through the growing season was moderate through much of flowering, set and veraison. A warm July pushed the grapes towards maturity more quickly than in years past. But once the heart of August rolled around, things started to cool off allowing a slow drawn out ripening period. Flavors developed slowly while acidities remained high preserving freshness and vibrancy in the fruit.

In the winery, we continue to tailor our work towards drawing out the best from the site. The grapes are harvested in the cold early morning hours when the high elevation fog is just starting to peel away from the vineyard and reveal the now 90-year old vines. Once at the winery, we fully de-stem the clusters and allow fermentation to proceed at its own pace without the intervention of a cold soak or heating of the tank. Fermentation lasted 29 days which produced a wine of great depth, complexity and perfume. Aged for 32 months in combination of used and new (35%) Bordeaux barrels with minimal sulfur until just before bottling. Unfined, unfiltered.

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2014 PETER MARTIN RAY CABERNET SAUVIGNON / SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

This wine is flat out gorgeous.

The palate is supple and nuanced with a total sense of silkiness. Bright currant, white sage and cedar box spice are laced together in a pliant, expressive Cabernet Sauvignon that captures the essence of the site and vintage. The fruit on this wine is so pure and is framed by elements highlighting the wine's finesse rather than power. Rose water, rye bread, sage blossom and a hint of white pepper add an element of the exotic to the high-toned, expressive finish.

Enjoyable now. This is also one for the cellar and long haul.