

Blacksmith Cellars
2018 C.L.R.T. Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

Composition: 79% Cabernet Sauvignon
20% Merlot
1% Cabernet Franc

Harvest: September 15-October 15
Sugar: 24.0-26.5 Brix
Total Acid: 0.66 g/L
PH: 3.65

Alcohol: 14.3% by Vol

Aging: 100% French Oak

Production: 2100 Cases (750 ml)

Vineyard: The Grapes for this blend are sourced from several regions in Napa Valley including Oakville, Calistoga, and the Stag's Leap District. The Napa Valley is famed for its Bordeaux varietals and the farming of these vineyards is held to the highest standards producing less than 3 tons to the acre.

Cellar Practices and Winemaking: All of our fruit is hand picked and hand sorted at the winery before crushing to ensure the purest expression of the Cabernet Sauvignon character. The Cabernet is cold soaked before fermentation for three to four days to extract color and flavor without any harsh or dry tannins. The wine is then aged for 22 months in 100% French oak to bring complexity and finesse to the blend.

The Wine: Blacksmith Cabernets strives to make wines that represent good value in the marketplace and the 2018 C.L.R.T. is a polished offering that very much overachieves at the price. It is introduced by a nicely focused, moderately deep nose of cassis, dark cherries and vanilla and follows with lengthy, like-minded flavors. Nominal varietal tannins provide a good bit of structural grip without steering it to toughness. The balanced structure and mouthfeel make this an ideal wine for early consumption and food pairing but this also displays great potential for aging and is a wine well worth setting aside for another three or four years.