

# **Blacksmith Cellars**

## **2018 Dry Creek Valley Cabernet Sauvignon**

**Composition:** 90% Cabernet Sauvignon  
10% Merlot

**Harvest:** October 2, 2018  
Sugar: 25.5 Brix  
Total Acid: 0.68  
PH: 3.65

**Alcohol:** 14.5% by Vol

**Aging:** 100% French Oak

**Cases Produced** 850 cases

**The Vineyard:** Both of the varietals for Blacksmith Cellars' Dry Creek Cabernet Sauvignon come from a single vineyard planted on the East side of Dry Creek Valley. Rocky hillsides with thin soils contribute to small berry size and great concentration in the fruit that is farmed to about four tons per acre.

**Cellar Practices and Winemaking:** All of our fruit is hand picked and hand sorted at the winery before crushing to ensure a true expression of the varietal character. The crushed fruit is cold soaked for three days to extract richness without harsh or dry seed tannins. Fermentations are done in half-ton bins and are punched down by hand three times a day. The wine is aged for 22 months in tight grain Bordeaux style French Oak including Tarransaud T-5 barrels.

**The Wine:** Nicely defined and optimally ripened with a careful trim of sweet oak to its solidly varietal, blackberry fruit, this fleshy and well-balanced bottling hits all the right Cabernet Sauvignon marks. There is just enough tannin to firmly convince the drinker of its varietal origins but these tannins never lean into dry astringency allowing for easy unaccompanied sipping. Its best years are here and now but it should show grace and beauty for another 2-3 years.