

100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Clone 15 and Clone 4
Diamond Ridge Vineyards, Clearlake
Harvested 12 October
24.9 Brix

Fermentation techniques:

Anchor NT 112 yeast inoculum 7.5 g.L Bois Frais Alliers chips 14-day maceration

Elevage details:

Four weeks microbüllage pre-ML 60 months in 20-year old neutral French oak Alcohol sweet spot at 14.5% pH 3.73 at bottling

2013 CABERNET SAUVIGNON LAKE COUNTY

Diamond Ridge Vineyards is located at the southeast corner of Clear Lake in Lake County. This remarkable site enjoys a cooling lake effect due to its close proximity to water. Its 2,000-foot altitude and clean, traffic-free air allow the sun bathe its fifteen clones of Cabernet Sauvignon in high UV, resulting in brilliant color, firm tannins and rich fruit aromas. Clone 15 is characterized by rich black cherry aromas and substantial tannins, while Clone 4 contributes finesse and brightness.

The vineyard's stony volcanic soil imparts energetic mineral energy and surprising longevity. Accordingly, the wine was allowed 60 months in 20-year old neutral French oak which developed seductive tobacco nuances greatly enhanced its complexity, adding elements of mysterious and intriguing "come hither" aromatics.

The mouth possesses a rich, generous core of black cherry and a lively mineral finish. Tannin structure, once quite hard, has evolved to a pleasant roundness: velvety on the back palate but still with a firm grip up front, indicating both drinkability and further aging potential of perhaps a decade but entirely enjoyable right now.

While certainly a peppered steak would be suitable, you really must try it with grilled duck breast.

We Smiths offer small lots of extraordinary hand-crafted wines which explore French winemaking traditions in California.

More info available at winesmithwines.com