foley johnson

HANDMADE

2023

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CABERNET FRANC - RUTHERFORD

VINTAGE

The winter of 2022-2023 saw record rainfall, ending years of drought conditions in Napa County. With below average temperatures in winter and spring, budbreak was significantly delayed. Continued cool weather through summer led to harvest beginning 2 weeks later than average. This gave the grapes ample time to hang on the vine which helped develop full flavors while maintaining vibrant acidity.

VINEYARDS & WINEMAKING

In the heart of the Foley Johnson Rutherford Estate, our Cabernet Franc is farmed in the famous "Rutherford Dust" that yields small, yet intense clusters from well-balanced vines. The ideal growing conditions in the vineyard allow our Bordeaux varietals to reach full maturity on the vine without taking on the green, leafy taste of under-ripe fruit. Grapes were hand-harvested in the cool early morning hours to preserve their vibrant character and fresh aromatics. Upon arrival at the winery, the fruit was gently destemmed into stainless steel tanks for a one-day cold soak to enhance color extraction. Throughout fermentation, we employed daily pumpovers to build depth, while our winemaking team performed precise daily analysis to ensure the perfect balance of color and tannin. Once the ideal profile was achieved, the wine was pressed and moved to barrels for malolactic fermentation and 18 months of aging, resulting in a polished and expressive final blend.

TASTING

The 2023 Handmade Cabernet Franc opens with an expressive bouquet of plum and raspberry, beautifully layered with the sweetness of blackberry jam. Aromatic notes of spearmint, bay leaf, and floral lilac add a sophisticated, herbal complexity to the nose. On the palate, this wine offers a rich mouthfeel that balances fresh blueberry with savory dried herbs and a touch of dusty cocoa. Framed by fine-grained tannins and a polished structure, it concludes with an elegant finish that makes it a perfect match for grilled duck breast with a blackberry reduction or a wedge of aged Gruyere cheese.

STATISTICS

APPELLATION	Rutherford, Napa Valley	ALCOHOL	15.6%
VINEYARD	Foley Johnson Estate	TA	5.91 g/L
COMPOSITION	89% Cabernet Franc, 9% Merlot, 2% Malbec	pH	3.62
AGING	18 months in French oak, 60% new	BOTTLING DATE	August 7, 2025
PRODUCTION	107 cases		