

Cycles GLADIATOR

2013 CABERNET SAUVIGNON



Cabernet is king. It certainly is with us. We love it. We can't get enough. We love making it. And selling it doesn't suck either. Best of all, we are in the heart of the Central Coast where I have access to some of the best Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards in the state of California. From the hilltops that rise above the floor of the Livermore Valley to the rolling landscape of Paso Robles, I get to source some pretty incredible fruit for this blend. And a blend it is. I'm not shy about adding depth and layers of flavors with such varietals like Merlot or even a bit of Syrah. But what makes the Central Coast so special for me when it comes to Cabernet is the wide variety of styles that can be produced. From big fruit-bombs to tightly-wound tannin balls, I'm presented with a number of options for putting together a wine that, to me, is exactly what I'm looking for in a Central Coast cab: varietal and seamless.

The base blend for this wine comes from vineyards in both Paso Robles and the Livermore Valley. The key for me is to find the sweet spot between fruit and tannins. Paso cabs tend towards big, ripe, and relatively soft flavors and structure wherein their Livermore brothers lean towards lean and tannic. They truly complement each other at some certain ratio. And if you add a little Merlot for midpalate depth and some Syrah to tighten the back end and sand off the rough edges, you'll have a wine that rocks.

Blackberry, cedar, and allspice on the nose. The attack is all dark fruit: plum and black cherry. Dusty and melting tannins immediately coat the tongue and provide a platform for the fruit towards the back of the mouth. The acid component is subtle but substantial enough to carry the fruit long into the finish. I like Cabernet Sauvignon with roast beef as in a French Dip. Ribeye or Flat-iron steaks are a great pairing. Something with decent marbling. Italian pastas with tomatoes somewhere in the recipe are also a good choice. This is an all-purpose cab that can handle whatever you toss at it. Enjoy.

Varietal:
88% Cabernet
Sauvignon
8% Merlot, 4% Syrah

Appellation:
100% Central Coast

TA: 0.58 gms/100ml

pH: 3.67

Alcohol: 13.9%

Oak regimen:
22% New French,
15% New American,
balance neutral oak

Adam LaZarre . Winemaker