



MOONE + TSAI

### Wine Profile

## Moone-Tsai 2019 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

### Tasting Notes

In a season marked by copious rainfall, and a long warm summer, the stage was set for the 2019 vintage's remarkable wines. Abundant hang-time teased out great color, structure and tannins yielding exceptional fruit with bright acidity and ample texture.

Our 2019 Napa Valley Cabernet is a study in how talented winemakers can create a memorable "Cabernet" that can achieve beguiling nuance through the masterful touches of notable Bordeaux-style varietals. Alluringly ruby red in the glass, the perfume of black fruit and rose petal is unmistakable. Fresh, focused, and direct, the wine bristles with an underlying tension that is both disarming and intriguing. Cassis, sweet oak, and a hint of cherry cola coalesce against a pleasing backdrop of medium acidity and silky tannins, made possible by 18 months aging in 50% new French oak. The wine finishes handsomely with a rhythmic undulation reminiscent of the backbeat present in Duke Ellington's masterpiece "*Caravan*" brought to life in the closing scenes of the acclaimed psychological thriller, *Whiplash*, featuring a young Miles Teller, who plays his heart (and hands) out as a jazz-drummer-prodigy aspiring to become the next Buddy Rich. Pitted against the film's nemesis, a maniacal instructor (played by the inimitable J.K. Simmons), the screenplay plays out brilliantly, leaving the viewer breathless until Nieman's final performance signals victory, but at questionable personal sacrifice. Beyond this, we come to appreciate that appropriate accolades ensued, most notably, via the AMPAAS (Oscars), Golden Globes, et., al.

The backbone of this remarkable Cabernet was sourced from Soda Canyon, an area located in southeast Napa Valley where soils are characterized by a blend of volcanic and granite-like subsoil. Adding to the wine's remarkable layering and complexity are Cabernet Franc and Petite Verdot sourced from a unique parcel located on a small sliver in the Yountville AVA, adjacent to Stags Leap. Grapes from this area enjoy both the structure characteristic of hillsides, and the rich flavors that mark valley floor fruit.

**Winemaker:** Philippe Melka, Bordeaux-bred (*Chateau Haut Brion, Petrus*) and – heralded by Robert Parker as one of the top nine winemakers in the world. "*Where possible, I will minimize winemaking techniques in the cellar so I can create a wine that tells the story of the vineyard. In the end, it must be about the fruit.*"

### Wine Facts

Varietal Composition:	82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Petite Verdot, 6% Cab Franc, 3% Merlot
Vineyards:	Soda Canyon, Yountville/Stags Leap, Howell Mountain
Production:	950 cases
Harvest Date:	Sep 24 <sup>th</sup> – Oct 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2019
Cooperage:	18 months: 50% new French oak: St. Martin, Fr. Freres, Taransaud
Bottle Date:	June 24, 2021
Release Date:	March 2022

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