

Cakebread Cellars



2017 Guajolote Red Wine Blend Suscol Springs Vineyard, Napa Valley

Unique to Cakebread is a wine called Guajolote, which translates in Spanish to “wild turkey.” The wine was so named for the wild birds who roam Suscol Mountain. This wine has an unparalleled personality as a blend of both Bordeaux and Rhône varietals. Such a combination is uncommon in the Napa Valley, making this a very special wine offering the highest expression of our estate vineyards.

Vineyards

All of the grapes featured in the Guajolote blend are grown on our Suscol Springs Ranch estate vineyard. The terroir of this cool site in Southeastern Napa Valley is rocky and well-drained, which may lead to the assumption that only certain types of grapes would thrive. Instead, this vineyard is home to a wide array of varietals that flourish including Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Cabernet Franc and Grenache. Close to the San Pablo Bay, and familiar with ongoing breezes and regular fog year-round, the vines here deliver complex, concentrated fruit with ideal acidity.

Vintage 2017

After several years of drought, we were happy to see ample rainfall in Napa Valley during the winter of 2017. Cool spring weather gave us ideal conditions for flowering and “berry set”—when each tiny flower turns into a young grape. Temperatures were moderate through the summer, for slow, even ripening, then turned warmer during harvest, which sped things up and delivered small clusters with tremendous varietal character and balanced acidity. Harvest of our Suscol Springs Ranch vineyard was two weeks early!

Winemaking

Each varietal from the Suscol Springs Vineyard is independently managed, hand-harvested at night and separately crushed. Fermentation in small stainless-steel tanks follows, with manual punchdowns that delicately extract color and flavor. Each lot is carefully analyzed, tasted, assessed and then blended. The wine was aged for 17 months in 43% new French oak that was selected from specific forests to elevate the blend. The barrel program integrates the intensity of the fruit, guaranteeing subtlety and balance without allowing the oak to overpower the structure, natural minerality, spice and freshness.

Tasting Notes

Shades of crimson catch the light in the glass before intricate aromas of violets, blackberry, boysenberry and pepper spice make way for concentrated flavors of dark cherry and fresh boysenberry. With a rounded mouthfeel, this is a multifaceted wine with lush characteristics of Merlot, yet the benefit of the bold structure of Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. A bright acidity follows, balanced by supple tannins and a ripe, mineral-laced finish.

Blend: 37% Cabernet Franc, 36% Merlot,
26% Syrah, 1% Cabernet Sauvignon
Vineyards: Napa Valley, 100% Estate
Suscol Springs Ranch Vineyard
Harvest dates: 9/4/17 - 10/4/17
Fermentation: Stainless steel tanks
Barrel aging: 17 months French oak barrels, 43% new

Alcohol: 14.7%
Total acidity: 0.70 g/100 ml
pH: 3.49
Bottled: April 2019
Winemaker: Stephanie Jacobs