

# Cakebread Cellars



## 2016 Vaca Red Wine Blend, Napa Valley

### Vineyards

We select fruit for this special red blend from three different vineyards along the Vaca mountain range. Suscol Springs Vineyard, east of the town of Napa, is the coolest; its vines are planted amid rocky outcrops overlooking the Napa Valley floor. Doggwood Vineyard, located further north above Conn Dam near Napa's eastern ridgeline, is a warm, bowl-like valley boasting multiple sun exposures. Dancing Bear, the northernmost site, sits on Howell Mountain at elevations between 1,400 to 1,800 feet and enjoys a near 360-degree exposure, offering a diverse range of growing conditions.

### Vintage 2016

Here in Napa Valley, 2016 gave us the most abundant rainfall we've experienced in three decades, which refreshed and revitalized the vines after years of drought. Warm spring temperatures prompted an earlier-than-average budbreak, followed by a relatively cool summer with no heat spikes; these conditions allowed grapes to ripen slowly and steadily, and a warm, dry September helped them develop to full maturity. Harvest was earlier than usual as well—which was fortuitous, since October brought us one of the wettest months in recent history! We were excited to bring in another standout vintage, with smaller yields of exceptional quality.

### Tasting Notes

Our 2016 Vaca Red Blend, a combination of 95% cabernet sauvignon and 5% cabernet franc, reveals bright aromas of boysenberry and blackberry, with just a touch of minerality and perfumed oak. The ripe dark fruit carries over onto a round, mouth-filling palate, joined by notes of cassis and supported by firmly structured tannins. Rich blackberry and sweet oak distinguish the long, succulent finish. This full, lush wine is ready to drink now, but will continue to develop in bottle over the next decade. Enjoy with burgers, roasted chicken, pulled pork, or hearty pasta dishes.

### Winemaking

We harvest and ferment each of our Vaca Range vineyard lots separately, and winemaker Stephanie Jacobs carefully selects fermentation tank size and temperature, yeast strain, and barrel type based on the unique expression of each lot. Cold soaking prior to fermentation extracts color, flavor, and tannin; following fermentation, Stephanie blends the individual components for a balanced, complex wine. Our 2016 Vaca Red Blend spent 22 months aging in French oak barrels, 64% new, prior to bottling in July, 2019.

Grape Variety:	95% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc	Alcohol Content:	15.1%
Vineyards:	Napa Valley: 50% Suscol Springs, 49% Doggwood, 1% Dancing Bear Ranch	Total Acidity:	0.65 G/100ml
Fermentation:	100% in stainless steel tanks	Ph:	3.69
Harvest Dates:	September 28 – October 7, 2016	Bottled:	July 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2017
Barrel Aging:	22 Months in French Oak Barrels, 64% New	Winemaker:	Stephanie Jacobs