

# Cakebread Cellars



## 2018 Rubaiyat North Coast

A long-time favorite of our wine club members, Rubaiyat takes its name from the famous lines penned by 12th-century Persian poet Omar Khayyám: “A Book of Verses underneath the Bough, A Jug of Wine, a Loaf of Bread, and Thou Beside me singing in the Wilderness.” The blend of this deeply flavorful, fruit-forward red wine changes according to the conditions of each vintage and our winemaker’s blending intuition.

### Vineyards

Our 2018 Rubaiyat is a blend of 80% pinot noir, 20% syrah. We harvested the pinot noir from our Annahala and Apple Barn Vineyards in Mendocino County, where warm sun and chilly nights create wines of intensity and balance. These vineyards lie just a few miles from one another; Annahala sits closer to the ocean and gives us a lighter style pinot noir, while the gravelly soils and slightly warmer conditions of Apple Barn deliver a more robust expression of the varietal. The syrah comes from our cool-climate Suscol Springs Vineyard in southeastern Napa Valley, where rocky hillsides develop syrah with savory notes and hints of boysenberry, and grenache with firm tannins and good acidity.

### Vintage 2018

The 2018 growing season was a dream come true. Early spring rains replenished the soils, clusters ripened evenly over a long, slow summer with no heat spikes, and grapes reached full maturity right on time. Yields at harvest were abundant and of very high quality.

### Winemaking

Each year, our winemaker selects multiple small lots of red wine to create a robust, fruity, and balanced red blend. Every vineyard lot is hand-harvested at night to preserve fruit purity, then fermented in small, open-top, stainless steel tanks. Fermenting wine forms a cap of skins, and we punch this cap down by hand to gently reintroduce the skins to the wine and extract optimal color and flavor. The 2018 Rubaiyat aged for 10 months in French oak barrels (40% new) to capture fruit-forward aromas, juicy flavors, and supple tannins.

### Tasting Notes

Aromas of ripe black cherry and raspberry with hints of violet lead into a palate of lush blackberry and black cherry flavors balanced by bright acidity. Supple tannins support the deep fruit characters, and a refreshing minerality lingers with black cherry notes over the finish. Try this wine with spare ribs, lamb burgers or grilled portobello mushrooms.

Blend: 80% pinot noir, 20% syrah  
Vineyards: Napa Valley  
and Anderson Valley  
Harvest Dates: 9/12/18 – 9/27/18  
Fermentation: Small open-top tanks  
Barrel Aging: 10 months in French oak  
barrels, 40% new

Alcohol: 13.7%  
Total acidity: 0.61 g/100ml  
pH: 3.64  
Bottled: June 2019  
Winemaker: Stephanie Jacobs