

2020 EISELE VINEYARD 'ALTAGRACIA' CABERNET SAUVIGNON

WINEGROWING INFORMATION

The 2020 growing season was challenging from the very beginning, with a combination of warm temperatures and low winter rainfall that prevented an early bud break. The continuing trend in the Spring led to the highest water deficit recorded during canopy expansion and consecutively an early onset of stress. The vines adapted quickly to these exceptional conditions, setting the stage for naturally low yields. Growth was harmonious and the balance between the size of the canopy and the quantity of fruit was perfect. Veraison progressed smoothly as the summer followed a normal pattern of cool nights and warmer days, but heat spikes intensified in September. The dry-farmed Cabernets were picked on September 10th, followed by the young vines. September 15th marked the beginning of harvest for the parcels bordering Simmons Creek and concluded on September 24th, just three days before the start of the Glass Fire.

Meticulous sorting was implemented at the cluster table by our crew before the berries made their way to the fermentation vessels. The excellent ripeness level of the skins and seeds allowed a smooth and balanced extraction. This 2020 vintage was aged for 18 months in a combination of French oak barrels (90%) and Austrian oak foudres (10%), for a savory combination of ripe fruit and spicy notes. As a result of carefully managed yields and uncompromising selection, 2020 is the smallest vintage at Eisele Vineyard since the 1991-1993 period during which the estate was being completely replanted.

The Eisele Vineyard grapes are certified 'Organic' by CCOF and 'Biodynamic' by Demeter.

TASTING NOTES

The Eisele Vineyard character continues to show more evidently every year in the Altagracia blend, expressing the singular quality of the estate-grown fruit from our Eastern parcels. Very fragrant and expressive, the 2020 Altagracia unveils a floral nose with dried rose petals intertwined with wild strawberries, red currant, cranberry, and a hint of pink pepper and santal. The mouthfeel is round and silky with subtle flavors of black tea, cinnamon, orange peel and cocoa. The texture of tight-knit tannins coating the palate, leads to a long aniseed finish. This delicious and vibrant Altagracia displays a smiling personality that offers a strong and elegant response to the difficulties of the year.

GRAPE SOURCE

96% Cabernet Sauvignon
4% Petit Verdot
Eisele Vineyard, Napa Valley

1,250 cases made

Release date: February 8, 2023