

# STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS

## 2012 HANDS OF TIME RED BLEND



### THE STORY OF THE HANDS OF TIME

Along a shady walkway on the tranquil grounds of Stag's Leap Wine Cellars one comes across a succession of limestone plaques, each bearing a handprint. These handprints comprise the Hands of Time exhibit, an enduring tribute to the many people who contributed to the winery's history over the years and who have gone on to become celebrated winemakers and viticulturists in their own right. With a tradition of mentoring that dates back to our founding in 1970, Stag's Leap Wine Cellars has been a springboard for many a storied winemaker's career. This wine is a tribute to our alumni whose unwavering vision of crafting elegant and balanced wines has been passed down from teacher to student, and through the hands of time.

### VINTAGE NOTES

2012 was a textbook vintage for the Napa Valley, producing exceptional fruit. A mild winter ended with enough rainfall to allow good moisture in the soil. The mild spring transitioned into a mild summer. With the exception of one heat event in early July, summer temperatures were perfect with daytime highs almost always in the upper 80s and nighttime lows in the upper 40s. In mid-July the valley began predicting a larger than average harvest. But it was a grower's dream as fruit achieved that elegant intersection of flavor and quantity. Fruit matured with deep concentrated flavor and soft tannins. Without extreme heat or rain we found ourselves able to "cherry pick" vineyard blocks as they achieved maximum flavor. The only catch was that a lot of grapes arrived at the winery at the same time. The rain held off almost until the very end of harvest and even then it was only an exclamation mark on a remarkable growing and winemaking vintage.

### TASTING NOTES

This Napa Valley red blend offers pleasing aromas of ripe, crushed wild berries and cola. The palate is loaded with blackberry, plum and dark cherry flavors along with hints of dried herb. The wine has a full, yet structured mouthfeel with soft tannins and a lingering finish. Try pairing this wine with shredded pork tacos, grilled beef sliders or Chicken Saltimboca.



**HARVEST:** *The month of October, 2012*

**BLEND:** *57% Cabernet Sauvignon  
43% Merlot*

**APPELLATION:** *Napa Valley*

**ALCOHOL:** *14.5%*

**BARREL AGING:** *15 months in neutral  
French oak (5% new oak)*

Marcus Notaro  
WINEMAKER