

STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS

2015 S.L.V. CABERNET SAUVIGNON

S.L.V., also known as Stag's Leap Vineyards, is the winery's first vineyard. Planted in 1970, this vineyard achieved international fame when three-year-old vines from the 1973 harvest produced a wine that stunned the wine world when it bested some of France's greatest wines in a 1976 blind tasting known as the "Judgment of Paris." Today, this history-making vineyard continues to produce wines with layers of complexity, spicy intensity and excellent structure—promising long life and ageability.

VINEYARDS & WINEMAKING

As most of the 1970s-era vines have aged past their grape-producing prime, they have been gradually replanted, perpetuating the life of this historic vineyard. All the vineyard blocks are represented in the 2015 offering, including S.L.V. Block 4 – the "grande dame" of the vineyard – which was planted in 1972. These vines along with blocks on the eastern side of S.L.V., characterized by their fire-borne volcanic soils, give this wine its structure and sense of minerality along with concentrated dark fruit flavors and ripe, elegant tannins. Vines in alluvial soils in the western part of the vineyard add vibrant fruit accent notes and heady aromatics.

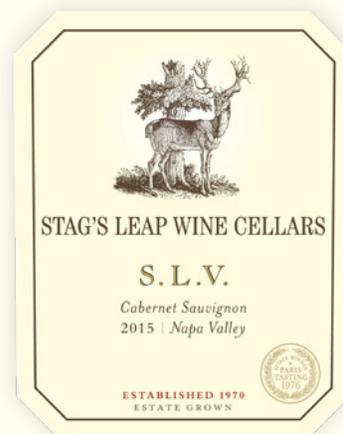
Each lot was vinified and aged separately in small French oak barrels for 21.5 months, allowing the characteristics of each block to develop. With this vintage, Winemaker Marcus Notaro used careful barrel selection to marry the unique graphite and cocoa characters of S.L.V. to the barrel type and toast level. In the latter stages of aging, the barrel lots were blended to create this 2015 offering.

VINTAGE

Overall, 2015 was a year with lower than usual crop size but with high quality fruit. The growing season was hot and dry and harvest started and ended early. A very warm and relatively dry winter led to early bud break but, conversely, temperatures were abnormally low during the bloom period in May. During this extended bloom, there were two small rain events that resulted in a high incidence of 'shatter,' reducing tonnage. While it was a challenging vintage, by continually adjusting to the challenges and employing best practices, the grapes brought into the winery were of high quality.

WINE

The 2015 S.L.V. Cabernet Sauvignon has generous aromas of cocoa powder, black tea, chocolate fudge and currants. The wine has a rich entry with robust flavors of black fruit and spice along with dusty tannins. The structured tannins, rich fruit, and pleasing minerality point to this wine's ability to age. Enjoy with barbecued Tri-tip, mustard-rubbed pork loin, parmesan and black pepper pasta (Cacio e Pepe), or crispy gnocchi with brown butter and sage.



HARVEST DATES: Sept. 14-17, 2015

ALCOHOL: 14.5%

pH: 3.75

TA: 0.54 g/100ml

FERMENTATION: 100% stainless steel tank

**MALOLACTIC
FERMENTATION:** 100%

BARREL AGING: 21.5 months
95% new French oak

BLEND: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

APPELLATION: Stag's Leap District,
Napa Valley (100% estate)

RELEASE DATE: May 2018

**SUGGESTED RETAIL
UPON RELEASE:** \$175 per bottle

CASES PRODUCED: 2,550

**MARCUS NOTARO
WINEMAKER**