

2018 EISELE VINEYARD 'ALTAGRACIA' CABERNET SAUVIGNON

WINEGROWING INFORMATION

The 2018 winter received only a third of the previous year's rainfall combined with low temperatures in February, delaying the vegetative cycle. Generous Spring rains arrived at the end of March a few days before budbreak, while cool temperatures continued to slow down the growth of the canopy. This allowed for extremely balanced vines with little need for intervention. Bloom occurred on May 24th, one of the latest on record. The fruit set was generous with beautifully full clusters. The ensuing Summer started warm and finished mild, without extreme climatic demand, creating ideal ripening conditions. Continuing amiable weather in August allowed a slow maturation of the fruit with off-the-charts levels of color. The team was able to harvest each block at optimal ripeness between September 30th and October 19th, the latest harvest in 7 years. There was little to no sorting required in the cellar. Once in tank, excellent extractability resulted in a high level of polymeric anthocyanin and moderate tannin levels, leading to very balanced and refined young wines. Coincidentally, the "elevage" in oak was slightly shorter than usual (19 months) with a fair amount of lightly toasted oak, leading to bottling in June.

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

TASTING NOTES

The 2018 Altagracia Cabernet Sauvignon unfolds with a nose of intense black fruit, wild blueberries and fresh black currants with a whiff of dried violets and tobacco. The mouthfeel is ample but firm with mineral notes of volcanic rock, forest humus and hints of dark chocolate. On the palate, the wine shows great depth thanks to extended maceration, with a refined texture of tight-knit tannins supporting the energetic black and blue fruits. As the wine opens, layers of floral notes, peppercorn and cardamom add to the complexity. The long finish lingers with a touch of licorice. This is a very pure and elegant Altagracia.

GRAPE SOURCE

86% Cabernet Sauvignon

11% Cabernet Franc

3% Petit Verdot

Napa Valley

2,680 cases made

Release date: February 10, 2021