

DUCKHORN

VINEYARDS

NAPA VALLEY



2012 Napa Valley Merlot

Stout Vineyard

Stout Vineyard is located in the Howell Mountain appellation, one of the Napa Valley's most sought-after, ultra-premium winegrowing regions. As a result of its topography, soils and climate, Howell Mountain has distinctly different grape-growing conditions than the valley floor. This 35-acre vineyard is planted to Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Zinfandel, Petit Verdot, Grenache and Syrah. The Stout Vineyard also has 300 mature olive trees that were planted at the turn of the 19th century.

2012 Harvest Notes

The 2012 growing season offered near-perfect growing conditions. Though budbreak was late due to heavy spring rains, warm weather during bloom allowed the vines to set a large crop. Increased yields were the result of more berries, not larger berries. This translated into even higher quality in the winery, as the skin-to-juice ratio remained ideal. Slightly cooler-than-average post-veraison weather and a lack of any heat events allowed for greatly extended hang time. Harvest was 2-3 weeks later than average, and the grapes arrived at the winery in pristine condition.

Comments from the Winemaker

Stout Vineyard's coveted mountain fruit has yielded a complex and beautifully structured Merlot. The aromas reveal both the sweet and the savory, with notes of Italian leather and tapenade mingling with hints of violet and vanilla bean. On the palate, lovely flavors of cassis, cranberry, eucalyptus and graphite are supported by fine dusty tannins that carry the wine to a long, firm finish.

Varietal Content

100% Merlot

Harvest Information

Appellation: Napa Valley – Howell Mountain
Harvest Dates: September 26 – October 10, 2012
Average Sugar at Harvest: 28.1° Brix
1 Estate Vineyard - Stout Vineyard

Cooperage

100% French Oak, Chateau-Style Barrels (60 gallons)
Barrel Aging: 18 Months
Age of Barrels: 85% New, 15 second vintage

Production/Technical Data

Alcohol: 14.5%
Titratable Acidity: 0.61 g/100ml
pH: 3.59

Bottled: August 2014
Released: September 2015