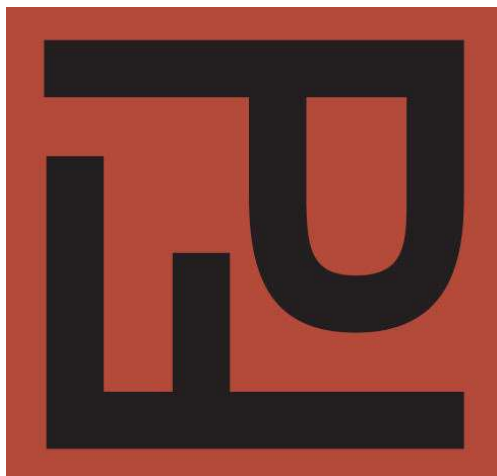


2023 PETER FRANUS BRANDLIN VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON



Vineyard:	Brandlin Vineyard 100% Mount Veeder
Composition:	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Harvest Date:	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Fermentation:	8 days, peak temperature 84°
Maceration:	15 days total before pressing
Oak aging:	18 months 100% French Oak 75% new
Bottling Date:	May 12, 2025
Production:	274 cases 12 x 750ml

TA 6.5 g/L

pH 3.49

Alc. 14.1%

RS 0.18 g/L

I encountered Mount Veeder for the first time over forty years ago. So different I thought from the rest of Napa Valley. It was the home of my first job, working in the vineyards on the slopes of the Mayacamas Mountains. Every year since, my wine career has been entwined with this special appellation—winemaker at Mount Veeder Winery whose focus was Cabernet Sauvignon, and of course more than 25 years of producing Zinfandel from those magnificent old vines of Brandlin Vineyard. Arguably it became our flagship and most sought-after wine.

In 2016 I returned to my earliest winemaking roots, with our first Cabernet Sauvignon from Brandlin Vineyard. To say it was an exciting and emotional experience would be an understatement. Equally exciting were the accolades the wine received as well as those for the subsequent vintages.

Over the last several decades I have observed the cycles of winemaking styles. As I enter my “twilight years,” the goal remains even more so, to produce wines that are fresh, balanced, complex, and palatable. As I’ve mentioned many times, “delicious” is the word we like to hear. Mountain fruit can easily result in ponderous and over the top wines, but that doesn’t have to be the case.

2023 was one of the longest growing seasons in years. Moisture from abundant winter rains kept the vines healthy throughout the summer and modest temperatures delayed harvest well into October—in fact we picked our 2023 Cabernet nearly six weeks later than the 2022. The result—intensely flavored grapes picked at optimum maturity producing wines with elegance, purity, and complexity. Great depth of flavor achieved at lower sugar levels. The vintage of a lifetime perhaps??

Our block of Cabernet rests on the hilltop ridge, adjacent to the 90-year-old Zinfandel vines. Surely some magical synergy is taking place!

As for the wine. Brilliant deep ruby in color—essentially opaque, naturally! The nose entices you with a kaleidoscope of aromas—sweet classic cassis, graphite, allspice, a hint of bay and white pepper. Tannins and acid are spot on and support the palate as does the beautiful sweet French oak component. Flavors envelop the palate and lead to the lengthy finish. There is a wonderful tension among all the elements, and the wine’s lower alcohol enhances the pleasure. Call it a “gentle” version of mountain Cabernet.

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