

B CELLARS
NOTES FROM THE CELLAR

*Sugarloaf Vineyard
Cabernet Franc*

100% Cabernet Franc

2022

Vineyard Story



Sugarloaf Vineyard is planted on a hillside in the southeastern corner of the Napa Valley. Close proximity to the San Pablo Bay creates a cooler, but longer growing season, perfect for lengthy hang-time and flavor development. This is balanced by the basaltic soils which capture and hold heat as well as the southwestern exposure to the late afternoon sunshine. These factors push the vines to ripeness and maturity,

Winemaker's Notes



Brimming with fresh and dried rose petals and marigolds, typical aroma notes for Cabernet Franc. Additionally, rich aromas of black cherry, dried cranberries, and orange zest are present. The palate is silky and smooth, with rounded tannins and flavors of blueberry pie with cocoa nibs, followed by more savory notes of rosemary and dried oregano.



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Vintage Notes



The 2022 growing season started with weeks of sunny days that created an earlier bud break. Bouts of cooler temperatures occurred in late February and early April, and summer was relatively mild compared to past years. Harvest began a few weeks earlier than anticipated, and finished earlier than normal due to consistently warm fall days in late August and early September. By mid-October, 90% of the grapes had been picked. Despite some of the challenges, which included limited rainfall, some early season fluctuation in temperature, and a warm spring and early summer, we experienced no significant issues. Yields were lighter than average. Overall, this was a solid growing season that showed great fruit quality with smaller berry and cluster sizes. Everything is pointing to a stellar 2022 vintage.

Pairing Insights



Chef Derick suggests pairing the Sugarloaf Vineyard Cabernet Franc with his lamb gyro. A warm homemade pita, generously stuffed with lamb, roasted red pepper hummus and served with tzatziki sauce. The lamb and hummus bring out the earthiness in the Cabernet Franc while the tzatziki helps to smooth the tannins.