

# PETER PAUL

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## WINES

### 2018 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

After the heat-spiked 2017 vintage, 2018 was like a calm stroll through the Muir Woods; Effortless with consistent, moderate weather for what turned out to be the longest harvest in years. In fact, I remember how almost no vintners and winemakers came to my taco truck party in late October because they were still picking fruit. The good news: both phenolic maturity and sugar-levels were in pristine balance at harvest. Thankfully, all *our* harvest picks were finished before the rains of early October. The resulting wines have a sexy density of fruit and phenolics without tasting overripe, while being blessed with a persistent freshness.

### About this wine

Rutherford, with its red-fruit purity, continued to be a central part of our Napa Cab program, with St. Helena providing impressive complexity and balanced richness. Unique to this year, a generous contribution by a remarkable Cabernet Franc vineyard in Chiles Valley made it to the final blend—someday when I’m older, I will make a 100% Cabernet Franc from there. In the winery, the fruit experienced minimal racking with 26-month aging in 45% new French Oak, and was bottled, unfiltered and unfiltered on Dec 2019. We intentionally leave our Cabernet-based wines to rest for an extended period of time before release while the various components fully integrate.

***2018 experienced a last new development:*** Last year, we went with lighter glass bottles; this year we forwent the fancy, Spanish-imported tin capsules and reduced our carbon footprint by adorning the top of the cork with a small wax “medallion” dollop instead.

### Tasting Notes

It’s become instructive—and enjoyable—to consider each new Cabernet Sauvignon release alongside recent vintages. If 2016 was deep and daring while 2017 upended expectations, then 2018 strolls in with a huge grin. Gorgeous, mocha-spiced and brambly aromas are followed by joyful flavors of raspberry, black cherry, sweet tobacco (must be the Cab Franc), raspberry, and dark chocolate, ending with a particularly satisfying finish. With time in the glass, this Napa Cabernet develops with a haunting and classic complexity. Drink over 5-8 years – decant if opening before 2022.

### Technical Data

Varieties: 85% Cabernet Sauvignon 12% Cabernet Franc,  
balance of Petit Verdot & Merlot  
Sub-appellations: Rutherford, St. Helena, Calistoga, Chiles Valley  
Maturation: 100% French Oak; 45% new  
Cases Produced: 386 cases, 5 magnum cases, Two-3L Bottles