

GROWING SEASON NOTES

The 2021 growing season on Tephra Ridge was marked by early bud break and a lighter-than-average crop. Spring conditions prompted bud break slightly earlier than usual, and wind and light rain during flowering may have contributed to smaller cluster sizes. These lighter clusters facilitated steady ripening and an early harvest, with most areas completing harvest by early October.

VINEYARD NOTES

Tephra Ridge Vineyard rises to 1,800 feet on Howell Mountain's steep, volcanic slopes. This historic 35-acre site features thin, gravelly loam and volcanic soils that mirror the finest Bordeaux terroir. The elevation, climate, and native vegetation—fir, madrone, black oak, and ponderosa pine—create ideal conditions for Bordeaux varietals, producing intense fruit with distinctive blackberry, cherry, and currant flavors characteristic of volcanic terroir.

WINEMAKING NOTES

Hand-harvested Cabernet Sauvignon grapes were destemmed into stainless steel tanks for fermentation. Gentle pumpovers extracted color and tannins, while extended maceration (21 days on skins) refined the tannin structure. After pressing and malolactic fermentation, the wine aged in French oak barrels—30% new—for 22 months total. The final blend was assembled prior to the next vintage and returned to barrel to achieve optimal integration.

TASTING NOTES

The 2021 Tephra Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon opens with an inviting bouquet of ripe red fruit, cherry, blackberry, herbal notes of sage and warm baking spices. On the palate, the wine reveals its volcanic heritage through a rich, dense mouthfeel supported by fine-grained tannins that speak to both power and elegance. Layers of flavor unfold with each sip—dark fruit concentration balanced by earthy undertones and a mineral backbone that reflects the unique terroir. The finish extends gracefully, leaving lingering impressions of spice and fruit that invite the next taste.

VARIETALS:

90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot

APPELLATION:

Lake County, California

VINEYARD:

Tephra Ridge Vineyard

ALCOHOL %:

13.5 %

AGING:

22 months barrel aged, 30% new French oak

T/A:

5.7 g/l

pH:

3.85

ACCOLADES:

93 Pts. Wine Enthusiast

