

UPPERCUT™

2010 Uppercut Cabernet Sauvignon

Wine

Broad shouldered and muscular, yet food friendly and approachable, our 2010 Uppercut Cabernet Sauvignon makes the perfect match for a sizzling steak. The wine's generous black cherry and blackberry aromas and flavors draw you in and then, with each swirl and sip, reveal complex hints of mocha, anise, tamarind and mineral, plus a racy hint of smokiness. Well-structured tannins give this wine the backbone to stand up to boldly flavored foods, as well as a plush texture that carries the rich dark-fruit flavors through the lingering finish. This wine's multilayered personality is unmistakably Napa Valley Cab.

Vineyard

While world famous, Napa Valley produces only four percent of California's wine—its fame comes from quality, not quantity. Its warm days balanced by cold nights from Pacific Ocean fog and its diverse soils contribute to Napa Valley's quality factor. We sourced our 2010 Uppercut Cabernet from the entire length of Napa Valley for layers of flavors and impeccable balance. Almost half of the grapes came from Rutherford, in the heart of Napa Valley, and another quarter from Calistoga and St. Helena to the north. In these regions the nightly fog does not linger long into the morning, which creates ideal conditions for warm-loving Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec. In contrast, Merlot prefers it chilly, so it was grown in Los Carneros, the southernmost and coolest part of the valley.

Winemaking

After destemming and lightly crushing the grapes, we fermented the must in stainless steel tanks until dry. Up to a week of extended maceration enhanced the young wine's rich color and varietal flavors, while malolactic fermentation rounded the acidity. During 16 months of aging, we clarified the wine with gentle racking. A combination of Bordeaux-style varietals, including Merlot, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec, completed the blend.

Vintage

Heralded as a near-flawless vintage in Napa Valley, 2010 had the latest onset to harvest in several decades. We picked the first of our earliest ripening grape variety after Labor Day, about two weeks later than average. This was due to above-average rainfall and cool temperatures that persisted into May, followed by a mostly cool, foggy summer that slowed fruit maturity. But just as we started worrying that the grapes would never ripen, Mother Nature surprised us with heat spells to boost their flavors and sugar levels. The quality was said to be "as good as it gets."

2010

UPPERCUT

NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON



Key Facts

- "Its multilayered personality is unmistakably Napa Valley Cab," says Winemaker Chris Cooney.
- Near-flawless 2010 vintage yielded quality "as good as it gets."
- Grapes harvested from mesoclimates and diverse soils throughout the entire length of Napa Valley.
- Serious enough for filet mignon; approachable enough for a gourmet hamburger.

Wine Data

Vintage - 2010

Varietal Composition - 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, balanced Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Merlot

Harvest Dates - Early to mid October

Barrel Aging
16 months
5% new barrels
(predominantly French oak)
Medium –plus toast

Appellation -
Napa Valley

Alcohol - 13.9%

Acidity - 5.8 g/L

pH - 3.73

Ageability -
2012 to 2018