



# CHERRYBLOCK

2016

C A B E R N E T S A U V I G N O N

## THE VINEYARDS

Since its creation, Cherryblock has been our flagship wine at Sebastiani. The majority of the fruit (85%) came from our original Old Vines block of Cabernet Sauvignon planted in 1961. The wine also features a portion of fruit from younger vines on our estate. Small amounts of Malbec and Merlot were sourced from nearby sites with similar climates and soils. Our goal is to create a benchmark Cabernet that possesses the elegance, structure and terroir-driven aromatics only found in Cherryblock.

## THE VINTAGE

2016 was a prime vintage producing high quality fruit. Overall the season was earlier than average with temperate weather allowing for even ripening and balanced flavors. The summer months were moderately warm with few heat spikes. Overall, the mild season gave us wines of ample ripeness and great complexity.

## WINEMAKING

After harvest, the grapes were crushed, de-stemmed and hand sorted using our "micro-crush" equipment to eliminate any stem pieces (jags) and botrytised berries. We also did a cold soak and saignée to enhance color and concentration. After pressing, each lot was blended or egg-white fined depending on characteristics. The wine was aged for 14 months in French oak barrels, 77% of which were new.

## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Complex, velvety and bold, the 2016 Cherryblock delivers a great deal of intricacy and sophistication. The wine fills the glass with deep purple and ruby highlights, followed by intense, concentrated aromas of blackberry, vanilla and baking spices. Waves of rich black fruit wash over the palate, with complex layers of cedar and tobacco. The tannins from this vintage were more intense than usual due to the smaller crop size, leading us to blend in a little more Merlot than is typical. The finish is framed by full soft tannins and lingering notes of herbs and spice. This wine is drinking well in its youth, but will improve over the next 10+ years.

APPELLATION:	Sonoma Valley
COMPOSITION:	85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 3% Malbec
COOPERAGE:	14 months in 77% new French oak barrels
ALCOHOL:	14.9%
TA:	0.65 g/100ml
PH:	3.5
BOTTLING DATE:	July 2018
CASES:	1210

