

2018 E.J. CHURCH CABERNET FRANC NAPA VALLEY

This reserve wine takes its name from E.J. Church, Long Meadow Ranch's pioneering settler who acquired the property via a patent grant from President Ulysses S. Grant in 1872. We have replanted the southwest-facing vineyards which E.J. Church established in the 1870s. These mountain-grown grapes, planted at 1300 feet elevation develop deep fruit flavors and ripe tannins which are handcrafted into an elegant, balanced wine.

VINEYARD: Bear Canyon

VARIETAL COMPOSITION: 100% Cabernet Franc

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

MATURATION: 18 months in 50% new French oak, 50% neutral French oak

CASE PRODUCTION: 112

FOOD AFFINITIES: Grilled grass-fed ribeye or chicken and andouille sausage

Jambalaya

WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS:

"Small in block size, but big in flavor, the Estate Cab Franc is a darling of the cellar every vintage. The 2018 opens with gentle notes of chocolate mint and bay leaf layered deliciously with rich cherry, plum and black currant. On the palate, an elegant natural acidity and long round tannins are woven through the very light French oak for a finish that will have your reaching for more."

GROWING SEASON:

- Justin Carr

The growing season was marked by a wet spring, resulting in extended flowering in some areas throughout the valley. The early summer was cool and mild allowing gradual ripening and acid development. Winemakers had to wait, watch and let berry chemistry and flavors come into balance before starting a relatively late harvest.

LONG MEADOW RANCH:

Owned by Ted, Laddie, and Christopher Hall, LMR employs an integrated, organic farming system, using simple, sustainable methods. Each part of the Ranch contributes to the health of the whole. Vineyards and wine making, olive orchards and olive oil making, cattle and horse breeding all work together in complementary fashion, as do the egg-laying poultry flock and the organic vegetable gardens. All crops are certified organic by California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) and are grown without the use of herbicides, pesticides, or chemical fertilizers.