

2019 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: 100

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

Jambalaya

WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS:

"Standing watch on the precipice of Bear Canyon, our tiny Cabernet Franc block is a winemaker favorite. True to the varietal, the wine opens with delightful hints of mint tea, raspberry and green coffee beans. They are supported by stronger layers of black cherry, currants and cocoa. The beautiful mountain fruit's gentle small lot fermentation nurtures tannins that are smooth and integrate perfectly in the French oak aging. Fans of Cab Franc will enjoy this for many years." – Justin Carr

GROWING SEASON:

2019 was a very wet winter with rain coming into spring. Keeping the vines in balance was especially important this year. Successful management of the vines along with wonderfully mild weather through summer gave us warm days and cool nights. This is a recipe for success in vineyards, the vintage gave us a great balance of sugar and acid with complete phenolic ripening.

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.