

2020 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: 121

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

Jambalaya

WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS:

"A favorite in the altitude of the Bear Canyon landscape, our small Cabernet Franc block consistently produces a wine of varietal distinction and elegance. The 2020 opens with aromas full of ripe raspberry, black cherry, and an invigorating chocolate mint. Emerging on the palate are blueberry, cacao nib and a hint of ancho chile woven among the balanced acidity, softly integrated French oak, and a pleasantly lingering finish." – Justin Carr

GROWING SEASON:

Ideal conditions at the beginning of the growing season with mild temperatures led to an early bud break. The below-average rainfall resulted in smaller, evenly developed clusters with more concentrated flavors. The warm summer gave an early August harvest kickoff, where we had normal yields and exceptional fruit quality.

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.