

Far Niente

A polished and expressive Napa Valley Cabernet, this 2021 vintage reflects Far Niente's enduring mastery with a blend of purity, depth, and finesse.

Far Niente

THE NAPA VALLEY WINE ESTATE
ESTABLISHED 1885

96
James Suckling



Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 2% Malbec, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc

Cabernet Sauvignon 2021

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

Far Niente's 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon draws on a mosaic of vineyard sources across **Oakville, Rutherford, Calistoga**, and **St. Helena**—each contributing distinctive attributes to the final blend. The **Oakville estate**, at the heart of Napa Valley, forms the wine's backbone with its gravelly, well-drained soils and classic cassis-driven power. Rutherford adds earthiness and spice through its famed "dusty" character, while Calistoga and St. Helena provide ripe fruit concentration and plushness thanks to their warmer microclimates.

This carefully curated selection of sites enables Far Niente to articulate a wine of **balance, depth and regional typicity**, reflecting the estate's four-decade pursuit of excellence with Napa Cabernet.

Winemaking

The 2021 vintage followed a **second consecutive drought year**, with minimal winter rainfall and a **windy spring**, which brought early budbreak and bloom. The summer was mild, with few heat spikes, allowing the grapes to ripen slowly and retain **exceptional aromatic concentration**. Harvest began mid-September in Calistoga and extended through mid-October, with **small berries yielding intense color and flavor**.

The blend includes **88% Cabernet Sauvignon**, enhanced by **6.5% Merlot**, **2.5% Malbec**, **2.5% Petit Verdot**, and **0.5% Cabernet Franc**—each component layered to build richness, structure, and complexity. After **12 days of skin contact**, the wine was matured for **17 months in French oak (62% new, 38% once-used)**, imparting texture, spice, and supple tannins.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep garnet with youthful violet reflections, signaling richness and vitality.
- **Aroma:** Aromatic depth of dark plum, red cherry, licorice, and warm baking spices.
- **Palate:** Plush and silky, with flavours of spiced plum, cherry compote, and cassis. Framed by fine-grained tannins and bright acidity, the finish is long, polished, and refined.

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Did you know?

Far Niente's Cabernet Sauvignon program began with its **inaugural 1982 vintage**, and the winery has since established itself as a leading name in **estate-driven Napa Valley Cabernet**, known for its commitment to elegance, precision viticulture, and ageability.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled dry-aged ribeye with rosemary jus**: Elevates the wine's dark fruit and spice profile.
- **Duck breast with cherry glaze**: The wine's acidity and plush texture match beautifully with the rich meat and tart fruit.
- **Roasted eggplant with pomegranate and tahini**: A bold vegetarian pairing highlighting the wine's earthy and spicy notes.
- **Hard aged cheeses, such as Manchego or Comté**: Complement the wine's silky tannins and lingering red fruit finish.

96 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 96 Points (2021)

Very precisely polished and focused wine with aromas of black cherries, blue berries and violets followed by green bell pepper, black ink and gravel. Underlying umami notes, too. Full-bodied, firm yet finely grained juicy tannins with bright acidity that balances out the palate. Beautifully integrated toasty notes and baking spices on the mid-palate and in the finish. Flourishing and artful wine that will age gracefully.

94 JEB DUNNUCK

Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 94 Points (2021)

The 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley checks in as 88% Cabernet Sauvignon with the balance Merlot, Malbec, Petit Verdot, and Cabernet Franc, aged 17 months in 62% new French oak. Its deep purple hue is followed by a rich, inward, nicely concentrated Cabernet Sauvignon that has both red and black fruits, some spicy, chocolaty, herbal, and tobacco nuances, medium to full body, ripe tannins, and a beautiful finish. It's not massive by any means, but it s beautifully balanced and has a layered mouthfeel along with rock-solid depth and character. Give bottles 2-3 years if you can and enjoy over the following 15.

92 Wine Spectator

Wine Spectator (WS) : 92 Points (2021)

Frankly ripe, with a forward core of cassis and kirsch notes wrapped liberally in melted red licorice elements. Reveals ample toast, too, though the fruit wins out in the end. Gains energy from light bramble hints. (JM) (2/2024)