Stag's Leap Wine Cellars

Named after the legendary FAY vineyard , this wine captures the essence of the Stags Leap District , blending elegance, structure, and a sense of place.

STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS

98 WINEENTHUSIAST

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

Fay Cabernet Sauvignon 2018

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

The **FAY vineyard**, established by Nathan Fay in **1961**, was the first to plant **Cabernet Sauvignon** in what is now the **Stags Leap District**. Initially deemed too cool for Cabernet, the vineyard proved its worth when Nathan Fay's homemade wine inspired the creation of Stag's Leap Wine Cellars.

Located in Napa Valley, the vineyard's **iron-rich volcanic soils** and cooler microclimate produce grapes with classic **red fruit tones**, an expressive perfume, and a fine-grained texture. Blocks like **2C, 3A, and 8AB** are central to the wine, contributing structure, elegance, and aromatic complexity.

Winemaking

The **2018 vintage** experienced late-season rains followed by a mild spring, resulting in an extended bloom period and an excellent fruit set. The summer temperatures were moderate, ensuring slow and even ripening, while a cool September extended the harvest period, enhancing flavor development at lower sugar levels.

The wine is crafted from **100% Cabernet Sauvignon** and underwent **fermentation in stainless steel tanks** with complete malolactic fermentation. Aging lasted for **20 months in 100% new French oak barrels**, where careful barrel selection enhanced the fruit expression and texture. The wine was released in **May 2021**, with a limited production of **3,700 cases**.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep garnet with brilliant clarity.
- **Aromas**: Fragrant bouquet of **boysenberry**, **cherry pie**, **cassis**, and hints of **sweet spice** and **gardenia**.
- **Palate**: Lush and velvety, with flavors of **blackberry**, **blueberry**, and a touch of **spice**, supported by polished tannins and a balanced structure. The finish is smooth and lingering.

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Fay Cabernet Sauvignon 2018

Did you know?

The **FAY vineyard** is where the Stag's Leap Wine Cellars story began. It was here that founder Warren Winiarski tasted Nathan Fay's homemade Cabernet in **1969**, inspiring him to purchase neighboring land and create wines that would rival the world's best.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Herb-crusted lamb chops with creamy polenta**: Enhances the wine's velvety texture and savory depth.
- **Savory plum tart with goat cheese**: Complements the wine's aromatic red fruit profile.
- **Thai peanut and shrimp salad**: Balances the wine's lush fruit with its vibrant acidity.
- **Aged cheddar or Gruyère**: Matches the wine's polished tannins and complexity.

98 WineEnthusiast

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 98 Points (2018)

*From the famous site that kicked off a revolution in Napa Cabernet, this wine is aromatic in cedar, earth and sage. Robust and generously concentrated in berry, cherry and cassis, it is complex, structured and velvety smooth, the tannins supple and supportive, unfurling slowly in the glass. *Editors' Choice* (VB) (5/2022)*

96 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 96 Points (2018)

Very floral with violets and roses, as well as sweet berries, cherries and some redcurrants. It's round and refined with lovely berry character and fine tannins. So attractive now, but better in two or three years. (7/2021)

94 Wine Spectator

Wine Spectator (WS) : 94 Points (2018)

Very stylish, with a fine-grained alder and cedar backdrop that lets creamed plum, cassis and cherry reduction notes glide through unencumbered. Offers subtle savory, mineral and anise details that peek in throughout, with latent depth through the finish. Accessible, but there's absolutely no rush here. Drink now through 2038. (JM) (3/2022)