Shafer

A bold and energetic red blend, TD-9 2018 offers a vibrant fusion of fruit intensity, floral charm, and plush tannins, rooted in the spirit of adventure.

TD-9 2022

California, USA

Alcohol :15,30 %

Composition: 56% Merlot, 23% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Malbec

Region and Vineyards

TD-9 2018 draws its character from three key vineyard sources across Napa Valley: the **Stags Leap District**, **Yountville**, and a foothill site along the **Vaca Mountains**, just south of Stags Leap. Each site offers a distinct terroir contribution—Stags Leap brings precision and structure with its volcanic soils and cooler climate; Yountville adds softness and roundness from its deeper alluvial soils; and the Vaca foothills provide intensity and mineral lift thanks to rocky terrain and sun exposure.

Shafer farms all these sites using sustainable viticulture. These vineyard blocks are chosen not only for their quality but for their complementary nature in a blend. Long hang times in 2018 allowed fruit to ripen slowly and develop **complex aromas, ripe tannins, and vivid flavors**—ideal conditions for crafting a red blend of richness and energy.

Winemaking

The 2018 vintage was marked by a cool and consistent summer, producing grapes with excellent color, bright aromatics, and refined acidity. Harvested between **23.5° and 25.5° Brix**, the fruit entered the cellar in pristine condition.

The blend is composed of **56% Merlot**, **23% Cabernet Sauvignon**, and **21% Malbec**, aged for **20 months in 100% new French oak barrels** (Allier and Tronçais). This élevage adds polish, complexity, and supple texture to the naturally vibrant blend. With **15.3% alcohol**, TD-9 2018 is rich and generous, yet finely balanced by juicy freshness and well-knit structure.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby with violet highlights.
- **Aroma:** Intense and aromatic, featuring summer berries, rose petal, rhubarb, raspberry, and black cherry jam. Floral and earthy tones add lift and intrigue.
- **Palate:** Lush and energetic, brimming with red and black berry fruit, spice, and a hint of wild herbs. Plush tannins and a savory finish deliver length and elegance.

TD-9 2022

Did you know?

TD-9 is named after the **International Harvester TD-9 tractor** that John Shafer taught himself to operate when he left his corporate life in Chicago to start Shafer Vineyards in 1973—a symbol of risk, reinvention, and the adventurous Napa spirit.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled duck breast with cherry glaze:** The wine's fruit core and supple texture echo the richness and sweetness of the dish.
- **Beef tenderloin with rosemary jus:** A classic pairing that highlights the wine's structure and savory notes.
- **Mushroom and thyme risotto:** Earthy flavors enhance the wine's herbal and spicy complexity.
- **Aged Manchego or Tomme de Savoie:** Nutty, semi-hard cheeses soften the blend's youthful tannins and frame its red fruit.

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 95 Points (2021)

This TD-9 Cabernet Sauvignon, not to be confused with other TD-9 red wines, shows an amazing clarity of dark fruit. Its deep black cherries, blackberries and touches of black olive embody classic Cabernet. Beautifully integrated tannins lend a posh texture that's still bracing enough to help the wine age and improve. Best from 2026–2036.

Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 94 Points (2021)

The first vintage where they've put Cabernet Sauvignon on the label, the 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon TD-9 is 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot, and the rest Malbec, raised all in new barrels. Medium ruby/purple-hued, it has a killer nose of caramelized red and black fruits as well as lead pencil, dried flowers, and toasty oak. It's balanced, medium to full-bodied, and just about impossible to resist. There are roughly 10,000 cases produced, and it's a wine readers will love over the coming decade.

Wine Spectator (WS) : 93 Points (2021)

Bright and juicy, with a fun burst of blackberry and boysenberry fruit laced with hints of sweet bay leaf, violet, singed apple wood and licorice root. Good brambly energy runs underneath, giving this a vibrant feel as well as ample structure for the cellar. Best from 2025 through 2038.