Dalla Valle

The Dalla Valle Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon from Oakville is a masterful expression of Napa Valley terroir , showcasing exceptional depth and elegance.

DALLA VALLE
Vineyards

Cabernet Sauvignon 2018

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

The **Oakville** region in Napa Valley is renowned for producing some of the world's most celebrated wines. Nestled at an elevation of approximately **150 meters** above sea level, the Dalla Valle estate benefits from a unique microclimate characterized by warm days and cool nights, essential for the slow and balanced ripening of grapes. The soils in this region are predominantly volcanic, offering excellent drainage and contributing to the concentration and complexity of the wines.

The vineyards of Dalla Valle are meticulously managed, with a focus on sustainable viticulture practices. The estate's location on the eastern slopes of Oakville ensures optimal sun exposure, while the cooling breezes from the San Pablo Bay provide a natural balance, preserving acidity and enhancing the aromatic profile of the grapes. These conditions are ideal for growing **Cabernet Sauvignon**, the dominant varietal in this blend, alongside **Cabernet Franc** and a touch of **Petit Verdot**.

Winemaking

This vintage at Dalla Valle was marked by an extended growing season, allowing for a slow and even development of flavors and phenolics. The wine is a blend of **76% Cabernet Sauvignon**, **22% Cabernet Franc**, and **2% Petit Verdot**, sourced from some of the best blocks of the estate vineyard. After careful hand-harvesting and selection, the grapes underwent a gentle crushing and fermentation process.

Aging took place over **22 months in French oak barrels**, with **two-thirds** being new. This careful barrel regimen imparts a rich, velvety texture to the wine, while enhancing its complexity and depth. The oak aging also contributes subtle notes of spice and vanilla, complementing the intense fruit character.

Alcohol :14,90 %

Composition: 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot

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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep, opaque garnet with a radiant purple rim.
- **Aroma:** The nose opens with an enticing bouquet of fresh berries, cassis, and dark cherries, intertwined with hints of cinnamon, nutmeg, and a touch of smoky oak.
- **Palate:** On the palate, the wine is full-bodied and layered, revealing flavors of ripe blackberries, plum, and cassis. Undertones of dried herbs, soil, and smoked meat add complexity. The tannins are well-integrated, providing a firm yet silky structure, leading to a long, elegant finish.

Did you know?

Dalla Valle Vineyards was founded by Gustav and Naoko Dalla Valle in 1982 and quickly became one of the most prestigious estates in Napa Valley. The estate is particularly famous for its cult wine, "Maya," named after their daughter.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Beef Wellington:** The richness of the beef and the earthy flavors of the mushroom duxelles complement the wine's depth and tannic structure.
- **Roast Lamb with Rosemary:** The savory notes of the lamb and the herbaceous rosemary enhance the wine's complex layers of flavor.
- **Aged Gouda:** The nutty and caramelized profile of aged Gouda pairs beautifully with the wine's fruit intensity and smooth texture

97

Robert Parker (RP) : 97 Points (2018)

Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate comes soaring out of the glass with energetic notions of fresh blackberries, black cherries and cassis plus nuances of dark chocolate, kirsch, cardamom and tilled soil with a fragrant waft of violets. The full-bodied palate is densely packed with perfumed black fruit flavors, supported by firm, grainy tannins and seamless freshness, finishing long with loads of mineral accents. (LPB) 97+

97 vinous

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 97 Points (2018)

The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon is a powerful, explosive wine that is going to need a number of years to be at its finest. The energy and raw intensity are so pronounced. Inky dark fruit, spice, menthol, licorice and cedar add striking aromatic nuance, but it is the wine's phenomenal balance that stands out most. This is the first vintage that includes component wine aged in amphora. This is far from an easygoing 2018. (AG)

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Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 97 Points (2018)

The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon, which always includes a splash of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, is incredible juice and a wine readers should seek out. Showing the quality and style of the vintage beautifully, it offers a captivating bouquet of crème de cassis, unsmoked tobacco, bouquet garni, and violets, with just a touch of foresty, earthy notes in the background. Aged 22 months in barrel (with a small amount in amphora), it's full-bodied and perfectly balanced, with integrated acidity and a great finish. I love this wine and don't make the mistake of overlooking this while only focusing on the Maya cuvee.