

Stag's Leap Wine Cellars

A benchmark of the Stags Leap District , Cask 23 2020 offers a captivating combination of dark fruit, floral notes, and a velvety texture, representing the pinnacle of winemaking craftsmanship.

STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS

99 WINEENTHUSIAST



Alcohol :14,80 %

Composition: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

Cask 23 Cabernet Sauvignon 2020

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

Cask 23 is a harmonious blend of grapes sourced exclusively from Stag's Leap Wine Cellars' estate vineyards: the **FAY vineyard**, known for its fragrant and supple fruit, and the **S.L.V. vineyard**, celebrated for its structure and dark fruit intensity.

Located in the **Stags Leap District** of Napa Valley, these vineyards benefit from **volcanic and alluvial soils**, combined with a Mediterranean climate characterized by warm days and cool nights. Specific vineyard blocks are meticulously farmed for **Cask 23**, ensuring the highest quality fruit and a pure expression of this iconic terroir.

Winemaking

The **2020 vintage** faced unique challenges, including a hot and dry growing season and wildfire impacts. Rain during bloom naturally thinned the fruit, balancing the crop with the dry soil conditions. These factors resulted in a vintage marked by intense concentration and ripe character.

The wine is crafted from **100% Cabernet Sauvignon**, with fermentation taking place in **3% French oak barrels with heads removed**, enhancing integration and depth. It underwent **100% malolactic fermentation**, followed by **22 months of aging in 100% new French oak barrels**. The result is a wine with remarkable balance, richness, and structure. The alcohol content is **14.8%**, with a limited production of **1,900 cases**, released in **September 2023**.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep garnet red.
- **Aromas**: Enticing notes of **chocolate mousse**, **ripe plum**, **crushed raspberry**, **violet**, and a touch of **nutmeg**.
- **Palate**: Full-bodied and luxurious, featuring flavors of **dark fruit**, cocoa, and sweet spice. The wine's velvety tannins and vibrant acidity lead to a long, polished finish.

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Cask 23 Cabernet Sauvignon 2020

Did you know?

Cask 23 was first created in **1974** when legendary winemaker **André Tchelistcheff** identified a particularly exceptional lot from the **S.L.V. vineyard**, leading to its separate bottling and establishing its legacy as one of Napa Valley's most iconic wines.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Filet mignon with truffle butter**: Enhances the wine's richness and savory depth.
- **Duck breast with blackberry sauce**: Matches the wine's dark fruit and floral elegance.
- **Wild mushroom risotto**: Complements the wine's earthy and velvety texture.
- **Aged Parmesan or Manchego cheese**: Balances the wine's vibrant acidity and bold tannins.

99 WineEnthusiast

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 99 Points (2020)

This seamless blend of oak spices, cherry-plum fruitiness and silky tannins makes for an irresistible wine. A Napa classic and collectible, it is big and mouthfilling but so well polished that it's tempting to drink young.Cellar Selection

96 Wine&Spirits

Wines & Spirits (W&S) : 96 Points (2020)

Pretty great wine. Winemaker Marcus Notaro and viticulturist Kirk Grace started the 2020 harvest for Cask 23 on the 12th of September; Notaro says they had brought in all their cabernet from Fay and S.L.V., the estate vineyards that provide this blend, just as the Glass Fire broke out (it started in Deer Park, near St. Helena, on September 27). Notaro believes the haze from distant fires earlier in the season did not impact the fruit, but the heat spikes of August did, accelerating ripeness. He credits what the team learned from the late season heat of 2015 and 2017 for their success with 2020, managing the vines through irrigation and "physically lowering the wires on the hot side of the canopy to shade the clusters from getting overheated." His 2020 Cask 23 feels grounded in its alluvial depths (the Fay Vineyard, on an ancient river bed, makes up 53 percent of the blend). The wine's blue fruit is round and stony, resinous and generous with black frills at the edges, filigree from the heat that adds detail without touching the core of fruit. That fruit presents a pure, completely clean face to the wine. This vintage will take a decade or more to show at its peak.

96 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 96 Points (2020)

Notes of blackberries and blackcurrants with dark chocolate, tobacco leaf, spice box and nut shell. Full-bodied with an array of finely polished, silky tannins and seamless, sleek texture. Compact and a little tight in the middle, yet refined with a deep dark fruit backbone. Long and smooth.