

2012 **ARIL** Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Napa Valley AVA



ARIL is a boutique, family-owned winery founded in 2008 by Harmon & Joanne Brown. Originally, they were inspired to produce small lot fine wines sourced from their Napa Valley home and vineyard, which included a 130-year-old pomegranate tree amongst the vines.

In fact, “**aril**” is the seed of the pomegranate fruit, which represents that original inspiration. Together, **ARIL** has added limited offerings from celebrated vineyards in Napa and Sonoma Counties. Throughout, we have maintained a simple philosophy of procuring optimal grapes and respecting them in the winery. Ideal sites and exceptional farming are followed by a minimalist approach in the winery showcasing place, balance, and elegance.

Winemaking Notes

87% Cabernet Sauvignon & 13% Petit Verdot

All Estate fruit. Farmed organically. Picked on October 21st.

60% new French oak barrels (20% barrel fermented) for 24 months.

228 cases produced

Alc.: 14.5%

pH: 4.04

Winemaker/Viticulturist: *Ehren Jordan*

This is a Cabernet Sauvignon based on balance, preserving natural acidity yet delivering gorgeous layered fruit and exhibiting true age worthiness. The color is dark from the Petit Verdot, but where it's planted in the finer soils of the vineyard, also contributes an elegant aspect. The Cabernet Sauvignon, in the more volcanic, rocky portion of the vineyard adds more depth, structure, and complexity to the heart of the wine. As with all of our wines, we pick at the optimal time in development as physical and phenolic ripeness is achieved, but not long enough to lose acid or over emphasize alcohol.

The result is a wine with ample fruit now, yet the ability to continue maturing.

Tasting Notes

This classic Napa Cabernet Sauvignon is every bit what you would expect from winemaker Ehren Jordan. It is a bold, layered wine offering generous fruit enveloping great structure. According to the winemaker, this wonder from Aril Wines “opens with deep red and black cherry aromas along with notes of juicy strawberry, cocoa and spice. The wine has an elegant texture with very fine tannins and great acidity”. It will cellar for 10+ years.

Vineyard

Our Estate Vineyard is located in the Calistoga AVA. It is north of the town, surrounded by rolling hills, and in view of Mt. St Helena. It is close to and towards Knights Valley. The property has its own micro-climate, often cooler than the city of Calistoga, with an afternoon breeze helping moderate the temperature. The mercury drops sharply at night. Cool Russian River zephyrs pour through the Chalk Hill wind gap and cold air drops into the valley from the mountains. Thus, Calistoga has the largest diurnal temperature variation among Napa Valley AVAs. There are gentle slopes within the vineyard showcasing its diversity. There is a mix of soils from fine sandy/clay loam on the bench to a darker, eroded volcanic component on the lower portion. Throughout, there is a significant rocky aspect aiding in drainage and minimizing vigor.

Yields are small (2 to 3 tons per acre). Ehren Jordan has farmed this property organically since 2011.

Vintage

2012 Cabernet yielded great results throughout California. Naturally, the prolific Napa Valley takes the prize with one of the greatest vintages on record. In Napa Valley, the absence of frosts, moderate spring and summer, and an uneventful fall made for a perfect season in the Napa Valley. Cabernet Sauvignon was the absolute star crop. Many local winemakers believe this was their best vintage ever. 2012 Cabernets from Napa are very dark and complex, and they are expected to age fabulously. The vintage has been compared to some of the top vintages on record.