

ARIL

2014 Aril Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga/Napa Valley)



ARIL is a family-owned winery founded in 2008 by Harmon and Joanne Brown. They were inspired to produce a small amount of premium, hand-crafted wines based on their Pritchard Hill Estate Vineyard in Napa Valley which included a 130-year-old pomegranate tree amongst the vines. In fact, “aril” is the seed of the pomegranate fruit. Renowned winemaker and viticulturist Ehren Jordan (Failla/Turley), took over as winemaker/vineyard consultant in 2014 from previous winemaker Nate Weis (Silver Oak) and viticulturist Mike Wolf (Beckstoffer). We have maintained a simple philosophy of procuring optimal grapes and respecting them in the winery. Distinct sites and exceptional farming are followed by a minimalist approach in the winery showcasing place, balance, and elegance.

Winemaking Notes

92% Cabernet Sauvignon & 8% Petit Verdot

70% new French oak barrels (Taransaud, Remond, Ermitage) for 24 months

432 cases produced

Alc.: 14.2% pH: 3.67

Winemaker/Viticulturist: Ehren Jordan

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. 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.

Tasting Notes and Press

The nose is classic Napa Valley, filled with juicy blackberries, rich cocoa, cassis, and some wispy notes of fresh violets. Density and concentration sum up the palate nicely as tight-grained tannin is interwoven among layers of fresh raspberry, and hazelnut. These transition to a subtle richness of molasses and fig that's almost chewy enough to sink your teeth into. The finish is seamless and complementary to the palate with Earl Grey tea, and bright, refreshing acidity that should pair equally well with light fare or hardy cuisine.

July 2018, Antonio Galloni of Vinous rated this wine 92 points with a drink window from 2019 - 2029



ARIL

vinous

92_{pts}

Aril 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon

Napa Valley, Napa Valley

Red wine from United States

Drinking window: 2019 - 2029

The 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon is another impressive wine from Aril. Black cherry, plum, chocolate, licorice and tobacco open up nicely in the glass, as brighter notes develop with time. In this tasting, the 2014 comes across as a more accessible version of the 2013 tasted alongside it. There is plenty of muscle, and a bit more early approachability compared with 2013 and 2015.

Antonio Galloni, July 2018

