

ARIL

2015 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

90% Cabernet Sauvignon & 10% Petit Verdot

65% new French oak barrels (Taransaud, Remond, Ermitage, & Atelier) for 24 months

139 cases produced

Alc.: 14.5% pH: 3.71

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

2015 will go down as one of the most interesting vintages in recent history. A deep garnet-purple color that showcases the dense and powerful opulence of this wine that is balanced, elegant and fresh. First is the dark blackberry on the mouth and then the charcoal and pencil shavings which give it great structure from beginning to end. It's full-bodied wine which makes it approachable now, but the layers will make this wine one that will be better in 3 - 5 - 15 years.

July 2018, Antonio Galloni of Vinous rated this wine 93+ points with a drink window from 2019 - 2029



ARIL

vinous

93+_{pts}

Aril 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon

Napa Valley, Napa Valley

Red wine from United States

Drinking window: 2020 - 2030

Bottled shortly before this tasting, Aril's 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon is rich, unctuous and enveloping. Black cherry, chocolate, plum, licorice and spice are all kicked up in this flamboyant, dense Cabernet Sauvignon. Although it is naturally very young, the 2015 is also quite promising.

Antonio Galloni, July 2018

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