

2018 STAR LANE 'ASTRAL'

STAR LANE VINEYARD, HAPPY CANYON OF SANTA BARBARA



95+ Points

Jeb Dunnuck & Vinous

ALCOHOL
14.1%

AGED
22 months

OAK
80% New French

HARVESTED
Sept-Oct 2018

BOTTLED
June 2020

CELLAR LIFE
10-20 years

VINTAGE

2018 followed in the footsteps of our 2017 Star Lane vintage. We experienced another winter with lighter rainfall, transitioning into the Santa Barbara County's apparent new norm. Limited cluster counts and a cool spring which impacts fruit set at flowering signified yields would again be restrained to lower than average. The threat of frost damage would prove ephemeral, and the remainder of the season showcased even temperatures producing a consistent and steady ripening pattern and a return to normal vine maturation. Harvest began in long slow breaths, which gave ample time to thoughtfully process the fruit, allowing us to highlight the freshness and aromatics of the season. The clusters, having sustained a healthy hang time, developed the classic texture and complexity that Bordeaux-varietal fruit from this vineyard site have become increasingly renowned for.

WINEMAKER NOTES

While we would have loved a bit more fruit - yields were very small - 2018 was a vintage we needed. It provided a reprieve from the variables of heat spells and drought. Steady and mild temperatures throughout the ripening period kept development even and allowed each vineyard block's unique qualities to emerge. What became quite apparent during initial fermentation was the level of tension and supple qualities 2018 brought to Cabernet Sauvignon. Fruit profiles seemed darker, and as we normally see with own-rooted blocks that make up Astral, richness arrived even in a year of tension. Nearly all Cabernet Sauvignon (98%), a kiss of Petit Verdot (1%) and Malbec (1%) were added to bring everything into balance..

TASTING NOTES

A throw back wine for California Cabernet and reminiscent of our 2014, the 2018 Astral is blue in its fruit, classic in its Star Lane sage and chapparal, wants time to develop, and is built upon a structure of tension and depth akin to mid-1990s Napa Cabernet Sauvignons. This wine should develop beautifully.

"The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Astral marries the natural richness of this Happy Canyon site with notable energy and tension. Picking a bit earlier and relatively cool year result in a Cabernet that literally vibrates with energy. It will be a few years before the 2018 stars to drink well, but it sure is impressive today." *Antonio Galloni, 9/2022*

