



2022



HELENA DAKOTA VINEYARD

100% CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Elevation 750 feet

KNIGHTS VALLEY

Sonoma County, California

KNIGHTS VALLEY

Knights Valley is a remote winegrowing region bridging Sonoma and Napa Counties. It's an untamed landscape defined by rugged mountains, steep hillsides, placid meadows and abundant wildlife. Set along the flanks and foothills of Mount St. Helena and the Mayacamas Mountains, this rustic sanctuary possesses complex volcanic soils and an ideal climate to produce elegant, profound, and age-worthy Cabernet Sauvignons.

HELENA DAKOTA VINEYARD

This 12.4 acre vineyard is located on the western flanks of Mount Saint Helena, facing southwest at an elevation of 750ft. The nutrient-rich soils in this site, composed of reddish-brown clay loam with weathered volcanic rock, contribute energy to the vines, supporting vigorous canopy growth and ample ripeness of fruit. The resulting wines show generous concentration, and balance, with a robust structure. A cool mountain stream and a rocky ridge separate this vineyard from our Helena Montana vineyard.

VIGNERON NOTES

The winter of 2022 introduced a third straight year of below average rainfall in our Sonoma County vineyards, signaling a continuation of the ongoing drought. To ensure top quality fruit in the coming season, the decision was made during pruning to severely restrict the number of clusters each vine would be asked to ripen. Through this action, each block was allowed to fully express its terroir, even though it would mean lower yields during harvest. Winter was chilly but March and April warmed nicely, leading to even budbreak and flowering, with a uniform fruit-set. The summer months that followed, saw classically warm weather offset by cool nighttime temperatures, but late August introduced a severe heat wave just as the vineyards were achieving optimal ripeness. Responding quickly, our teams worked to harvest each block as fast as possible before the heat could negatively affect the fruit.

2022 Helena Dakota is powerful and opulent, with flavors of blackberry liqueur, and bittersweet chocolate, balanced by notes of fresh flowers, subtle baking spices, and iron minerality. — Pierre Seillan, Vigneron.

ACCLAIM

95 POINTS — Jim Gordon, JamesSuckling.com, February 2025



TECHNICAL DATA

ELEVATION:	750 ft	ALCOHOL:	14.4%	FLAVOR PROFILE:	Violet blossom, blackberry coulis, black currant liqueur, and toasted baking spices with an opulent texture
SOIL:	Red-brown clay with volcanic rock	AGING:	15 months in 85% new French oak barrels		
CELLAR AGING:	20+ years	HARVESTED:	September 10		