

# JEFF GORDON CELLARS



## 2011 NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

### TASTING NOTES

Deep garnet in the glass, the 2011 Cabernet has a pleasurable nose with hints of currant, eucalyptus, sour cherry and sweet leaf tobacco. On the palate the wine has an incredible brightness, bursting forth with cherry, cedar, cocoa powder and mild oak. Just a subtle note of white pepper and pomegranate compliment the velvety tannins. Rich and smooth, the 2011 is well-balanced and can be enjoyed tonight!

### WINEMAKING NOTES

The 2011 vintage year was a cool, damp vintage that was particularly challenging. The growing season in St. Helena was characterized by a mild winter with average rainfall, followed by an extended cool spring. Heavy rain in the spring led to reduced vine canopy growth and lower fruit yields. The cool temperatures continued through summer. As winemaker Jesse Inman states, "These unusual conditions challenged us to be more creative by thinning the canopy and thinning the grape crop to get the fruit to ripen. While not as easy as other harvests have been, the wine is much more approachable to drink now, yet will still age well for several more years." With the extra bottle aging before release, it drinks wonderfully now and should develop nicely for the next 3-5 years.

### VINEYARDS

The Cabernet Sauvignon comes from La Herradura Vineyard located in the foothills of St. Helena. Situated between St. Helena and Lake Hennessey, the vines receive good sun exposure. The soils are restrictive clay and rock, imparting intensity of flavor and structure into the wine. Much of this vineyard is planted on very steep slopes with shallow rocky soils. As a result, the yields are low, the grapes are small and the skins are thick. The Petit Verdot is sourced from Cafaro Vineyard in the Coombsville area of Napa and gives the wine its rich color and added complexity.

### SPECIFICATIONS

Varietals: 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Petit Verdot

Production: 123 cases

Alcohol: 13.6%

Total Acidity: .65 g/ml

Ph: 3.59

Barrel Aging: 16 months

Barrel Types: 30% new French Oak, Demptos Barrels

70% two year old French Oak



Cabernet Sauvignon  
Napa Valley