

# SMITH·MADRONE

## 2021 Estate Cabernet Franc

The 2021 Cabernet Franc is Smith-Madrone's first bottling of a very interesting, useful and valuable variety. Most notably, Cabernet Franc is widely used as a blending grape in Bordeaux and the Napa Valley and it is made as a stand-alone variety in the Loire Valley, in Chinon and Bourgueil and in Argentina. It seems particularly well-suited to the Napa Valley, where it has proven capable of producing wines of sufficient quality and distinction that are able to challenge the king, Cabernet Sauvignon, in its own back yard. This very fine offering from Smith-Madrone can only bolster this contention and add luster to a rising star in the world of Napa Valley wine.

The wine leads with an intriguingly complex aroma of cassis and black cherry / red cherry fruit. This is complemented by persistent notes of leather, violets and white pepper. It all coalesces into something that is distinctively, recognizably Cabernet Franc. On the palate the wine is medium weight and solidly structured. It has a firm, deep, creamy middle underneath a delicate, rose petaled texture. It finished with mellow, mild tannins and a blip of bright fruit that immediately takes you back for another sip. The wine is sleek and potent and filled with energy, delicious and tasty now, it is built for the long haul.

Our Spring Mountain pedigree insures deliciously integrated tannins and a long life-span. For fifty years our wines have been sourced from the same vineyards, pruned, cultivated and harvested in the same manner, creating artisanal wines which are distinctive and complex. Our goal is to produce wines which bring pleasure to all the senses.

Appellation:	Napa Valley
Sub-appellation:	Spring Mountain District
Farming:	Non-till, estate-grown, sustainably farmed mountain vineyard
Varietal content:	89% Cabernet Franc, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon
Time in oak:	18 months in 60% new French oak
Alcohol:	14.7%
pH:	3.54
Total acidity:	6.4 grams/L
Cases produced:	153 cases
Winemakers and winegrowers:	Charles Smith, Stuart Smith, François Bugué

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