

VINTAGE 2022



# PULIDO-WALKER

## *Cabernet Sauvignon*

MELANSON VINEYARD

*The* 2022 Napa Valley growing season was a study in contrasts. An atmospheric river dumped more than four inches of rain in a 24-hour period in October of 2021, capping a two-year dry spell and setting up the vines with a good amount of ground moisture as they woke from winter dormancy. The rains petered out fairly early in the spring of 2022, however, making for an especially small yield in the Melanson Vineyard, where the steep grade and stony soil tend to retain less moisture.

The summer months were relatively uneventful, despite being on the warmer side. We saw better vine development than in the two previous seasons, with a full canopy that would stand the fruit in good stead when the thermometer spiked in September. With the Labor Day heat event, what had been a fairly sedate growing season became a critical test of our abilities.

As temperatures across the valley rose above 110°F and stayed there for several days, we were grateful for the elevation of the Melanson Vineyard, as well as some afternoon shading, good canopy development, and overall vine maturity—all important factors in how well the fruit fared under such stressful conditions.

We harvested earlier than usual, on September 11, and in a testament to the excellence of this site, every barrel of the small crop made the final cut.

### *Winemaking & Tasting Notes*

One thing that was rare valley-wide in this vintage was good color saturation, but the 2022 Pulido-Walker Melanson Cabernet Sauvignon showed rich color density from the outset. As we've come to expect from this wine, it hews more black-fruited, with some savoriness and a pronounced crushed rock minerality that make it both recognizably Pritchard Hill and consistent with past vintages of this wine.

Because yield from this vineyard was tiny, we fermented both clones in tank together. Although not layered with the commanding tannins of the previous vintage, this wine showed promising natural structure, so cooperage was mainly focused on foregrounding and framing that aspect.

We don't often get the chance to savor the Pulido-Walker Melanson Cabernet Sauvignon upon release, as this site tends to produce wines that demand patience. We encourage you to enjoy the 2022 vintage now as a preview of the bottles aging in your cellar.

THOMAS RIVERS BROWN  
Winemaker

### *Data*

*Estate Grown*

*Varietal: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon*

*Clones: 7 and 337*

*Aging: 20 months in 100% French oak (80% new barrels)*

*Barrel Coopers: Darnajou and Taransaud*

*Alcohol: 14.6% by vol.*

*Titrateable Acidity: 5.1 g/L*

*pH: 3.87*

*Bottling Date: June 2024*

*Production: 93 Cases*

### *Site*

*Appellation: St. Helena, Napa Valley*

*Acreage: 10.5 acres on Pritchard Hill, adjacent to Colgin Estate*

*Elevation: 1,100–1,350 ft.*

*Soil Composition: Fractured serpentine and clay with igneous and seabed rock*

*Planted: 1999*

