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BECKSTOFFER DR. CRANE VINEYARD 2021 VINTAGE

Located in what used to be St. Helena’s “Chinatown” in the 1920s, Beckstoffer Dr. Crane Vineyard sits in a small, residential neighborhood on the west side of town, an unassuming site bordered by an old riverbed and a rock quarry. The vineyard was originally planted in 1858 by San Franciscan Dr. George Belden Crane; today it is owned by Andy Beckstoffer, who replanted it to multiple clones of Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc in 1998. Its soils, primarily bale loam and river wash, are extremely rocky and well-drained, and its warm, valley floor microclimate lends itself to the Bordeaux varietals grown here.

In most years we think of Dr. Crane as the more intellectual sibling to the hedonistic To Kalon. It seems to be the reverse in 2021. The yield at Dr. Crane was slightly better than the yield at To Kalon. The 2021 vintage marks the beginning of a new label for this wine.

Blend: St. Helena AVA. 95% Cabernet Sauvignon; 5% Petit Verdot.

Vineyard: Beckstoffer Dr. Crane Vineyard

Wine Profile: Blue fruits, lavender, crushed rock, graphite notes. A hedonistic vintage for Dr. Crane. Powerful midpalate followed by soft, silky tannins.

THE STORY BEHIND BECKSTOFFER DR. CRANE

Paying homage to the fact that the Dr. Crane Vineyard was once home to St. Helena’s Chinatown, we commissioned renowned artist, Yang Jiechang, to create the artwork featured on this label. The work incorporates cranes – known to represent longevity and wisdom in Chinese culture – and a “scholar’s rock,” considered a source of energy and an image found in many poems and paintings. At Realm we think of this rock as signifying Dr. Crane’s inimitable “sense of place,” while the cranes are indicative of the wine’s longevity.

