

Schrader

2021 VINTAGE OLD SPARKY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

PROFILE

The most coveted bottling in our portfolio, Old Sparky Cabernet Sauvignon is sourced from a section of the Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard that is planted on rich soils containing ancient marine sediment and an alluvial fan that provides excellent mineral deposits. Blended from a selection of only the best barrels from the vintage, the wine is full-bodied with concentrated black and purple fruit balanced with elegant floral and spice notes, fresh acidity, and firm ripe tannins. A wine that is built to age and recommended to cellar for 12-15 years.

VINTAGE

This vintage had all the elements of a classic Napa Valley vintage, and for many, it offered redemption from the devastation of 2020. Throughout harvest, Thomas was very impressed with the color and concentration of the fruit we harvested. The quality of our fruit is a testament to the diligence and attention to detail of our vineyard team, who had their work cut out for them in a vintage that was, at times, wildly variable and marked by lingering drought and some unseasonable and sustained periods of high temperatures. These same elements that challenged our vineyard teams also created an ideal environment for our vines to produce low yields of small, intensely flavored berries that achieved peak ripeness and marked complexity. In crafting our 2021 wines, we aimed to showcase the balance of power and poise that we feel will be the hallmarks of the vintage.

VINEYARDS

Beckstoffer's vineyard in Oakville, first planted in 1868 by viticultural and winemaking icon Hamilton Crabb, has long been regarded as the source of Napa Valley's finest Cabernet Sauvignon grapes. This section of the vineyard is situated in the heart of the valley. An alluvial fan provides excellent mineral deposits, and the rich soils are filled with marine sediment. The vines receive full sun and optimal heat during the day and are cooled by marine fog at night. These conditions allow each of the three clones planted in this vineyard (4, 6, and 337) to display its own unique character, and this celebration of individuality is the essence of Schrader.

BARREL SAMPLE CRITICAL PRAISE

Old Sparky is not able to receive barrel review scores because the blend is finalized just prior to bottling. Historically, it has received an impressive sixteen perfect 100-point scores from top publications such as *Wine Spectator*, *Wine Advocate*, James Suckling, and Jeb Dunnuck.



WINEMAKER: THOMAS RIVERS BROWN

APPELLATION: OAKVILLE, NAPA VALLEY

VINEYARD: BECKSTOFFER TO KALON VINEYARD,
PURE CLONES 4, 6, 337

COOPERAGE: AGED IN 100% NEW DARNAJOU AND
TARANSAUD FRENCH OAK BARRELS

ALCOHOL: 14.9% BY VOLUME