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Realm

Ein „Königreich“ im Napa-Valley

Realm: The Bard 2014 to 2017

“This blessed plot, this earth, this realm...” William Shakespeare’s King Richard II



Jeb Dunnuck : “...This small vertical looks at The Bard release from Napa Valley’s Realm Cellars, both getting their name from Shakespeare’s historic King Richard II. The Realm portfolio is divided between its single vineyard releases (Farella, Houyi, Beckstoffer Dr. Crane, Beckstoffer To Kalon, and Moonracer) and blends (The Tempest, The Bard, Falstaff, and The Absurd), and their The Bard is by far their largest production cuvee, with over 1,000 cases made in most vintages today. The idea behind The Bard is to showcase the best of Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon and it normally has fruit from the likes

of To Kalon, Dr. Crane, Blair Vineyard, Weitz, and Fortuna, among others. While there are small amounts of Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and/or Petit Verdot in the blend, it’s always 70% or more of Cabernet Sauvignon brought up in a mix of new and used French oak.

Looking at the vintages reviewed here, there has unquestionably been a subtle shift in the style of this cuvee, with both the 2012 and 2013 possessing a more concentrated, exuberant, sexy profile. Starting with the 2014 and even more obvious in the 2016 and 2017 (as well as the 2018), The Bard shows another level of elegance, purity, and finesse while still packing beautiful depth of fruit. I’m partial to the hedonistic opulence and “*je ne sais quoi*” qualities of the 2012 and 2013s, yet recent vintages are undeniably great wines that will have long lives.

If you factor in the production level, price (it’s released at \$125), and quality, it’s arguably one of the finest Cabernet Sauvignons coming out of Napa Valley today.

<https://www.realmcellars.com>

2014 The Bard

Jeb Dunnuck (97): "...From another awesome vintage for Napa Valley, the 2014 The Bard is still youthful and lively, with a terrific core of blue fruits as well as notes of spring flowers, violets, cedar pencil, and tobacco. As with most 2014s, it has an understated sense of elegance while still carrying surprising concentration and depth. Full-bodied, flawlessly balanced, with great tannins, it's drinking beautifully today yet will evolve gracefully on its balance and purity for another two decades"

2015 The Bard

Jeb Dunnuck (98): "...The 2015 The Bard checks in as 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Petit Verdot. Coming from a scorching hot vintage, it stays pure and beautifully balanced, with notable freshness in its darker fruits, tobacco, vanilla bean, violets, and spice-driven aromas and flavors. With beautiful ripeness, full-bodied richness, and incredible opulence on the palate as well as silky tannins, this singular Cabernet is going to evolve beautifully on its concentration, depth of fruit, and balance."

2016 The Bard

Jeb Dunnuck (98): "...Reminding me of a slightly fresher version of the 2013 (which is common for wines from the vintage), the 2016 The Bard checks in as 70% Cabernet Sauvignon with the rest Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot. Still inky hued, with a gorgeous perfume of blue and black fruits, crushed stone, violets, and graphite, this awesome wine is full-bodied, flawlessly balanced, has perfectly ripe tannins, and a solid spine of acidity that keeps the wine surprisingly fresh and lively. This ultra-classic, concentrated, incredibly impressive Cabernet Sauvignon will keep for 30 years or more. While the 2012 and 2015 are in the more opulent style, this is closer in style to the 2013 and 2018"

2017 The Bard

Jeb Dunnuck (96): "...The 2017 The Bard, based on 87% Cabernet Sauvignon and 13% Merlot, is certainly one of the standouts in the vintage. This deep purple effort offers a Bordeaux-ish vibe (which is common in the vintage) in its blackcurrant, graphite, tobacco, and scorched earth aromas and flavors. These carry to a full-bodied Cabernet with beautiful balance, a distinct sense of minerality, and the structure to continue evolving nicely for another 20 years or more"

| Art | Jahr | Realm Cellars, Napa Valley | Einh | Jeb Dunnuck | Parker | Listenpreis EUR/Fl. brutto | Vorzugspreis EUR/Fl. brutto |
|-------|------|----------------------------|------|-------------|--------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3982 | 2014 | The Bard | 0,75 | 97 | 95 | 141,35 € | 129,00 € |
| 9956 | 2015 | The Bard | 0,75 | 98 | 97 | 145,24 € | 129,00 € |
| 10222 | 2016 | The Bard | 0,75 | 98 | 98 | 145,24 € | 129,00 € |
| 5674 | 2016 | The Bard | 1,5 | 98 | 98 | 316,81 € | 289,00 € |
| 1266 | 2017 | The Bard | 0,75 | 96 | kB | 145,24 € | 129,00 € |
| 10881 | 2017 | The Bard | 1,5 | 96 | kB | 320,71 € | 289,00 € |

Spezialverkostungspaket mit je 3 Flaschen der 4 Jahrgänge 2014, 2015, 2016 und 2017 zu EUR 1499,00 statt 1731,00

Die Bruttopreise verstehen sich pro Flasche und **inkl. Mehrwertsteuer**. Das Angebot ist freibleibend. Zwischenverkauf vorbehalten. Es gelten die üblichen Zahlungs- und Lieferbedingungen laut Homepage.