



# UNCORKED BY THE SEA



## Cellar Club January 2023

### 2019 Brendel Coopers Reed Cabernet Sauvignon- Napa Valley, California

One of the most prestigious wines of the world capable of great power and grace, Napa Valley Cabernet is a leading force in the world of fine, famous, collectible red wine. Today the Napa Valley and Cabernet Sauvignon are so intrinsically linked that it is difficult to discuss one without the other. But it wasn't until the 1970s that this marriage came to light; sudden international recognition rained upon Napa with the victory of the Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 1973 Cabernet Sauvignon in the 1976 Judgement of Paris. Cabernet Sauvignon undoubtedly dominates Napa Valley today, covering half of the land under vine, commanding the highest prices per ton and earning the most critical acclaim. Leon Brendel, bought a small plot of land in the early 1950s to make great wine his way. All of the wines are free of any unnecessary ingredients and made with organically farmed 100% Napa Valley fruit-81% Rutherford, 13% Howell Mountain and 6% St. Helena. The soil does its job and the grapes speak for themselves, with minimal interference from birth to bottle. This wine is a modern nod to history. Aged in large vessels sealed with reeds, ingrained with the wisdom of the past. This pure expression of Cabernet Sauvignon evolves with each sip and gracefully unfolds on the palate. A slightly bashful beginning leads to an exuberant end. This wine exhibits lovely aromas and flavors of black fruit, licorice, violets, and savory spices. Having just one glass will require some serious restraint. WW 91 PTS

Pairings: When pairing a Napa Cabernet, you can't go wrong with earthy herbs, fatty cheeses, hearty red meats, buttery carbs, or semisweet desserts.

### 2019 Marietta Cellars Gibson Block Syrah- Mendocino, California

Marked by an unmistakable deep purple hue and savory aromatics, Syrah makes an intense, powerful and often age-worthy red. Syrah is the most widely planted grape of Australia and is important in California and Washington. Marietta Cellars has been a standout winery in Sonoma and Mendocino since the very beginning. Now fully estate-based and organically farmed, Marietta has vineyards spanning 310 acres in the Alexander Valley, McDowell Valley, and Yorkville Highlands. Notable among their heritage plantings are California's oldest Syrah blocks, planted in the late 1800s. This ancient, dry farmed mixed block next to the original Gibson Homestead has been producing grapes for over a hundred years. As a result of the vine age and miniscule yield, this wine is dark and intense. A heady mix of mulberry and lavender dominate the nose, with an edge of cinnamon stick. Broad, mouth-coating tannins are tethered to a core of smooth, sleek, powerful texture that is balanced by focused acid. Delicious with hearty fare now, and built to age. JS 95 PTS, RP 95 PTS

Pairings: Syrah loves the grill. Try it with grilled burgers, rib recipes, or even grilled eggplant or portabella mushrooms. It also likes roasted duck, grilled sausages, beef chili recipes, and beef casserole recipes. If you crave red wines with fish, try Syrah with grilled tuna or salmon.