



2023 Cabernet Sauvignon, Santa Cruz Mountains

www.merrypranksterswine.com

Bottled April 23rd, 2024

225 cases produced in this fourth vintage

Winemaker - Andrew Vingiello

Vineyard Manager - Thayer Dunwoody

Vintage

In 2023 the Santa Cruz Mountains experienced one of the longest growing seasons in decades. Late season rains and cold temperatures in early spring kept vines dormant. Bud break saw much milder temperatures ideal for set and maturity. Continued mild, consistent weather and only a few periods of moderate heat contributed to crop yields that were above average and hang time was extended. Harvest kicked off later in September and continued at a relentless pace through October. The 2023 vintage is high quality, exceptional, and notable. Another vintage of great magnitude delivering wines with exceptional vineyard purity.

Tech

Grape clusters were hand picked, destemmed, sorted, and fermented in small 1-2 ton lots. Fermentation kicked off spontaneously in open top tanks. Gently punched down twice a day, we worked hard to showcase all the lovely color, aroma and flavor of our mountain Cab without pulling too much tannin. The wine spent 6.5 months in oak (10% new) and 1 week in stainless steel. Bottled unfinned & unfiltered in April, 2024. 13.6% ALC/VOL.

Tasting Notes

Aromas of alpine strawberries, black cherries, and a hint of wild clary sage. On the palate, wild cassis fruit, dark plum jam, blueberry compote and crushed stone. Mouth coating mid-palate with vibrant acidity and a long, linear, viscous finish beautifully framed by a touch of toasted/sweet oak. Enjoy now or over the next 5 years.

Andrew says

“Showcasing the best mountain grapes, a fabulously fruity wine with light tannins. Picked in the early morning fog, fermentation started spontaneously in open-top tanks. 6.5 months in oak and 1 week in stainless steel. Bottled unfiltered & unfiltered. Strawberry and black cherry aromas, blackcurrant and blueberry flavors. Deliciously perfect for pranks.”

Background

Merry Pranksters wine is lovingly hand-grown, hand-made and mischievously bottled by the La Honda Winery team.

“The Merry Pranksters were the spark behind the 60’s. Ken Kesey, the author of ‘One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest’, was the leader of the pack, a famed band of fun troublemakers who marauded around the country on a psychedelically-painted and music-blaring bus. Their ‘radical self-expression’ set the tone for the cultural liberation that breathed a mischievous awakening from convention into America and the world” says David Page, owner of La Honda Winery.

As the label says, the wines are a fun and tasty tribute to the Merry Pranksters and their home in La Honda in the hills above San Francisco Bay, where we grow the grapes:

“In 1964 the Merry Pranksters jumped on a bus loaded with LSD and lit the fuse for the 60's. Immortalized in "The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test", the Pranksters' wild journeys were punctuated by brushes with the law and endless parties.

Their psychedelic ethos was to embrace love, express yourself, and break some damned rules. Ideal inspiration for a wine. Particularly as we hand-farm small vineyards in their idyllic home town of La Honda and the surrounding San Francisco Bay hillsides.

We just adore making, drinking, and sharing our wine. While making mischief. So please.... Drink Well. Be merry. Prank someone.”

