



**SOURCING:**  
NAPA VALLEY

**VARIETAL COMPOSITION:**  
100% CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**VINIFICATION:**  
18 MONTHS  
66% NEW FRENCH OAK

**ANALYSIS:**  
Alc: 14.9%  
TA: 6.6 g/L  
pH: 3.61

**ALWAYS POLISHED  
NEVER DULL**

## 2015 STERLING IRIDIUM NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Iridium is one of the rarest elements on earth. A very constrained and expensive resource, Iridium's uniqueness makes it incredibly valuable. Like the element, the Sterling Vineyards Iridium Cabernet Sauvignon is treasured. Made in only the very best vintages with the finest and most intense expression of Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, Iridium is the pinnacle of winemaking perfection.

### VINTAGE

The 2015 growing season was marked by pleasant weather with little pressure from heat spikes or unseasonable rain. A dry winter, common recently, was quickly followed by an equally dry spring, leading to an early bud break and fast start to the growing season. Warm weather continued throughout late spring and summer, allowing for the steady and sure development of flavors. The overall quality, complexity and balance in the vines produced exceptional fruit. The impact of the continuing drought was evident in slightly lighter crop loads, but the reduction in size was offset by an increase in quality as vineyard crews carefully selected fruit at harvest, allowing for only the finest fruit to be selected for Iridium.

### VINEYARDS

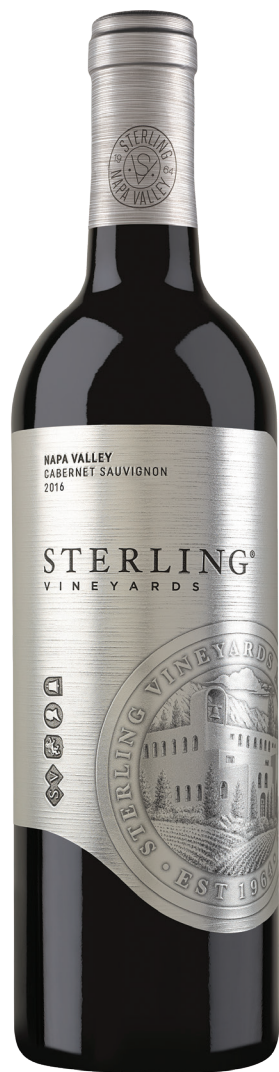
Cabernet Sauvignon is the signature variety of the Napa Valley and the appellation excels in producing outstanding expressions of this admired varietal. Napa Valley offers an ideal combination of topography, geology and climate that enables Cabernet Sauvignon to reach optimum ripeness, balance and finesse. And within the valley, there are exceptional vineyards and sub-appellations that produce some of the finest expressions of this noble grape. In Vintage 2015, winemaker Harry Hansen has selected notable lots from vineyards spanning key Napa Valley growing regions, including the Meigs Vineyard in Wooden Valley, Peterson Vineyard on Diamond Mountain, Sleeping Lady Vineyard in Yountville and the famed Hewitt Vineyard in Rutherford. The vineyards offer soils ranging from clay loam to tufa, with a variety of clones, exposures and ages.

### WINEMAKING

Fruit was hand-harvested and hand-sorted, selecting only the highest quality fruit for fermentation in a combination of concrete, French Oak and stainless vessels. The concrete tanks, relatively new to the winery, offered a significant purity of expression. Fruit was allowed to ferment for up to 15 days with regular pump-overs to extract deep color and rich flavors. The wine was then gently pressed, racked and aged for 18 months in 66% new French oak from COF toasted medium/medium plus from a mix of coopers including Gamba, Remond, Taransaud, Allary and Quintessence. Individual barrels from these top lots are aged separately and are tasted frequently before the final selection of only the most compelling barrels for Iridium.

### TASTING NOTES

Iridium is a wine designed to bring a singular thought to life: great wines come from great vineyards, and never so much as when the winemaking and winegrowing teams work hand in hand to carefully nurture the finest fruit toward a well-rewarded harvest. In 2015, Iridium exhibits the purity of fruit expression, polished tannins and rich texture that are quickly becoming the signature of this bold and opulent wine. Classic Napa Cabernet notes of mocha, cassis and dark fruits are accented with oak spice, caramel toffee and layered flavors that linger, leaving a lasting impression. Built to last, the wine will reveal its inner personality over many years to come.



**SOURCING:**  
NAPA VALLEY

**VARIETAL COMPOSITION:**  
92% CABERNET SAUVIGNON,  
3% PETIT VERDOT, 3% PETITE SIRAH,  
1% MALBEC, CABERNET FRANC

**VINIFICATION:**  
AGED 16 MONTHS IN FRENCH,  
AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN OAK,  
AVERAGE 30% NEW

**ANALYSIS:**  
Alc: 14.5%  
TA: .59 g/L  
pH: 3.76

**ALWAYS POLISHED  
NEVER DULL**

## 2016 NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Sterling Napa Valley wines show the depth, strength and expressive quality of California's most famous wine region. Fruit for Sterling wines is grown throughout Napa Valley, from the cool southern Carneros region next to San Pablo Bay to the rugged northernmost benchlands and reaches near our Calistoga homeplace. Sterling has more than five decades of winemaking excellence in Napa Valley, and winemaker Harry Hansen is able to build from that experience to select the finest lots to create the most memorable expressions of the varietal for each vintage. Key to the signature Sterling style is the contribution of fruit from our home base surrounding Calistoga, where fully ripe fruit offers soft tannins, black fruit profiles and approachability, alongside the firmer tannins evident in fruit from Diamond Mountain, offering great balance in the final assemblage and cuvée.

### VINTAGE

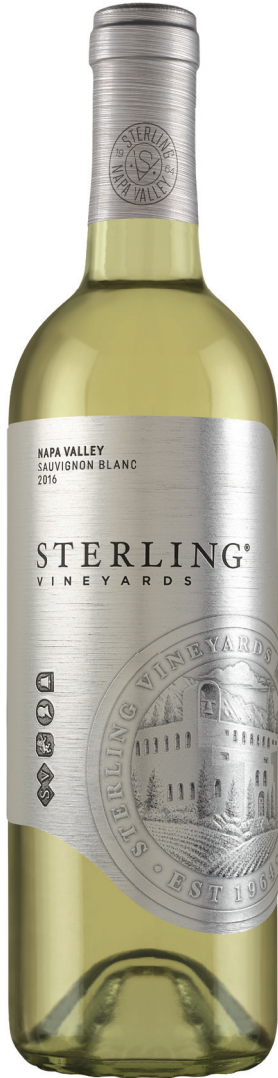
The extended drought was creating concern as the 2016 growing season began, but some welcomed winter rain hinted at relief to come. After a relatively dry January there was significant rainfall in February, along with mild temperatures. Bud break was early, but was slowed by heavy April showers. While still early by historical standards, picking began about a week later than 2015, and continued at a leisurely pace, allowing the grapes to reach full flavor maturity. The first noticeable fall rainstorm arrived mid-October, but offered no threat to the fruit. A traditionally sized harvest followed the lighter showing of 2015, and the extended season helped balance the acids and add complexity to the layers of flavors. Fruit was harvested as winemaker called the pick from September 14 to October 19, 2016.

### VINEYARDS & WINEMAKING

Cabernet Sauvignon reigns king in the Napa Valley and the appellation excels in producing outstanding expressions of this admired varietal. Napa Valley offers an ideal combination of topography, geology and climate that enables this varietal to reach optimum ripeness, balance and finesse. For this vintage, grapes were sourced primarily from traditional vineyards such as BV12 and Bear Flats Ranch in Calistoga, the Peterson Ranch and Diamond Mountain Ranch in the Diamond Mountain district, along with the Moore Ranch near the north shore of Lake Hennessey. The Calistoga appellation, our winery home, is one of the warmest areas in the valley but has extreme diurnal shifts, allowing the grapes to enjoy cool nights which maintain excellent acidity. At our newly renovated reserve winery, each lot is kept separate until the final blending, allowing for the selection of the most expressive and unique barrels to combine in the final blend. Each of these lots aged for 16 months in a combination of French, European and American oak barrels. Once ready, the barrels are carefully evaluated and only those reflecting the true hallmarks of the Napa Valley are selected for the final Napa Valley blend.

### TASTING NOTES

The power of Napa shows in the rich, deeply red garnet color with aromas and flavors of dark red and black fruits, including black cherry, raspberry, blackberry and ripe plum. Notes of mocha, oak spice and cassis are accented with sea salt caramel and vanilla bean. Intense and full-bodied, the wine is balanced and well structured with seamless acidity and evident but pleasing tannins. Approachable and welcoming now, the wine will continue to evolve and reveal more of its personality over the next decade.



## 2016 NAPA VALLEY SAUVIGNON BLANC

Sterling Vineyards Napa Valley wines show the depth, strength and incredible quality representative of California's most famous wine region. Grapes for Sterling Vineyards Napa Valley wines are grown in diverse and premium vineyards throughout the valley — from the cool southern Carneros region to the warm and rugged northernmost reaches of the valley near Calistoga. These incredible vineyards give Winemaker Harry Hansen some of the best Napa Valley fruit to select from and allow him to craft unique, intensely flavored and expressive wines.

### VINTAGE

The 2015 growing season in the Napa Valley was of outstanding quality marked with ideal weather throughout and no issues from frost, heat spikes or rain. The continuation of California's drought brought a dry winter followed by a dry and early spring with an early bud break. Weather was warm and consistent throughout late spring and summer which allowed for full development in the grapes. Harvest began in August, and although overall crop loads were low due to continued drought conditions the quality and depth of flavor of the fruit was excellent. Grapes for the 2015 Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc were harvested between August 17th and September 8th.

### VINEYARD & WINEMAKING

The Sterling Vineyards Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc fruit comes principally from a selection of prestigious vineyards throughout the region including Calistoga Ranch, Bear Flats, Larsen Ranch and Tamagni vineyards. Gamble Ranch, mid valley in Oakville, contributes tropical notes of guava and distinct aromas winemakers call an "artful stinkiness." Many of these vineyards are located mostly in the northern and warmer end of the valley, allowing the grapes plenty of sunshine days and warmth to fully ripen and develop intense fruit character. The summer evenings are cool in the Napa Valley and the grapes maintain a high level of acidity which shines in the final bottling. A small amount of wine is aged in neutral oak to add texture to the wine.

### TASTING NOTES

The Sterling Vineyards Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc is a brilliant, light gold color in the glass and offers bright aromas of stone fruit, pear, fresh grapefruit and lemon citrus. The inviting nose leads to a quenching palate with flavors of citrus and white peach. There is good tension in the wine balanced between a core of acidity and the creamy roundness on the palate, leading to a persistent and flavorful finish. This is a classic expression of Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc.

**SOURCING:**  
NAPA VALLEY

**VARIETAL COMPOSITION:**  
SAUVIGNON BLANC

**VINIFICATION:**  
FERMENTED IN STAINLESS,  
WITH A SMALL AMOUNT OF WINE  
AGED IN NEUTRAL OAK

**ANALYSIS:**  
Alc: 13.5%  
TA: 6.0 g/L  
pH: 3.16

**ALWAYS POLISHED  
NEVER DULL**



**SOURCING:**  
NAPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

**VARIETAL COMPOSITION:**  
100% CHARDONNAY

**VINIFICATION:**  
10% WAS FERMENTED IN  
STAINLESS-STEEL TANKS, AND  
90% OF THE WINE COMPLETED  
MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION

**ANALYSIS:**  
Alc: 14.5%  
TA: .57 g/L  
pH: 3.51

**ALWAYS POLISHED  
NEVER DULL**

## 2016 NAPA VALLEY CHARDONNAY

Sterling Napa Valley wines show the depth, strength and expressive quality of California's most famous wine region. Fruit for Sterling wines is grown throughout Napa Valley, from the cool southern Carneros region next to San Pablo Bay to the rugged northernmost benchlands and reaches near our Calistoga homeplace. Sterling has more than five decades of winemaking excellence in Napa Valley, and winemaker Harry Hansen is able to build from that experience to select the finest lots to create the most memorable expressions of the varietal for each vintage.

### VINTAGE

The extended drought created concern as the 2016 growing season began, but welcomed winter rain hinted at relief to come. After a relatively dry January there was significant rainfall in February, along with mild temperatures. Bud break was early, but was slowed by heavy April showers. While still early by historical standards, picking began about a week later than 2015, and continued at a leisurely pace, allowing the grapes to reach full maturity. Fruit was in the winery by the time the first noticeable fall rainstorm arrived in mid-October. A traditionally sized harvest followed the lighter 2015, and the extended season helped balance the acids and add complexity to the layers of flavors. Fruit was harvested when winemaker Harry Hansen called the pick from September 7 to October 3, 2016.

### VINEYARDS

Sourcing for this Napa Valley Chardonnay comes from a selection of prestigious vineyards, including Oak Knoll, Big Ranch and Rodgers Vineyard from the Oak Knoll AVA giving the wine its plush roundness and fruit-forward characteristics. A small amount of Chardonnay fruit also comes from Gamble Ranch in the Oakville AVA and from the southern, cooler reaches of the Carneros region, adding balanced acidity to the rich fruit flavors.

### WINEMAKING

The Chardonnay fruit was harvested in the cool morning hours and sent directly to press at the winery. The majority of the fruit was barrel fermented in French (65%) and American (35%) oak to impart rich texture and added spice notes. In the 2016 vintage only a small portion of the blend (10%) was fermented in stainless-steel tanks to capture bright fruit character and retain fresh acidity. Some 90% of the wine was allowed to complete malolactic fermentation. The final wine is elegant and shows a core of beautiful fruit character with balanced, bright acidity.

### TASTING NOTES

Fragrant aromas of crisp apple, citrus led by lemon zest and lime, lemon crème and toasted hazelnut lead to a richly textured wine with layers of similar flavors, enhanced with a honey almond and stone fruit character. A luminous, pale gold color hints at the nicely balanced and elegant entry with bright acidity and creamy roundness. The finish is persistent and memorable.



## 2015 PLATINUM CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Sterling Platinum wines bring to life true varietal expressions crafted for welcomed approachability, balanced with age-worthiness, giving life to the notion that these wines are Always Polished, Never Dull. Platinum expresses the depth, precision and intensity that is uniquely Napa Valley, testimony to the Sterling tradition of outstanding varietally focused Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, among the finest in Napa Valley.

### VINTAGE & VINEYARDS

The 2015 growing season was marked by pleasant weather with little pressure from heat spikes or unseasonable rain. A dry winter, common recently, was quickly followed by an equally dry spring, leading to an early bud break and fast start to the growing season. Warm weather continued throughout late spring and summer, allowing for the steady and sure development of flavors. The overall quality, complexity and balance in the vines produced exceptional fruit. The impact of the continuing drought was evident in slightly lighter crop loads, but the reduction in size was offset by an increase in quality as vineyard crews carefully selected fruit at harvest, allowing for only the finest fruit to be selected for Platinum wines.

Cabernet Sauvignon is the signature variety of the Napa Valley and the appellation excels in producing outstanding examples of this admired varietal. Napa Valley offers an ideal combination of topography, geology and climate that enables Cabernet Sauvignon to reach optimum ripeness, balance and finesse. And within the valley, there are exceptional vineyards and sub-appellations that produce some of the finest expressions of this noble grape, truly Platinum worthy. In Vintage 2015, winemaker Harry Hansen has selected notable lots from vineyards spanning key Napa Valley growing regions, including the Meigs Vineyard in Wooden Valley, Moore Ranch in Napa Valley, Sleeping Lady Vineyard in Yountville and a trio of notable Calistoga vineyards, including Bear Flats, Barlow Ranch and BV Ranch 12. The vineyards offer soils ranging from clay loam to tufa, with a variety of clones, exposures and ages.

### WINEMAKING

Fruit was hand-harvested and hand-sorted, selecting only the highest quality fruit for fermentation in stainless vessels. Fruit was allowed to ferment for up to 15 days with regular pump-overs to extract deep color and rich flavors. The wine was then gently pressed, racked and aged for 19 months in a combination of 50% French (50% new) and 25% each American and Hungarian oak. Barrels are COF toasted medium/medium plus from a mix of coopers including Gamba, Remond, Taransaud, Allary and Quintessence. Individual barrels are aged separately and are tasted frequently before the final selection of only the most compelling candidates for Platinum.

### TASTING NOTES

Platinum is a wine designed to bring a singular thought to life: great wines come from great vineyards, and never so much as when the winemaking and winegrowing teams work hand in hand to carefully nurture the finest fruit toward a well-rewarded harvest. In 2015, Platinum Cabernet exhibits the purity of fruit expression, polished tannins and rich texture that are the essential signature of this rich, full-bodied wine. In this vintage the wine is showing more red fruits than previous vintages, with slightly sweeter vanilla tones from the American oak. Tannins are well developed, framing a wine with great structure and balance. Classic Napa Cabernet notes of mocha and cassis join Bing cherry accented with pepper and oak spice, caramel toffee and layered flavors that leave a lasting, subtly sweet impression.

**SOURCING**  
NAPA VALLEY

**VARIETAL COMPOSITION**  
88% CABERNET SAUVIGNON,  
6% MERLOT, 6% MALBEC

**VINIFICATION**  
AGED 19 MONTHS  
50% FRENCH OAK (50% NEW), 25% EA.  
AMERICAN & HUNGARIAN OAK

**ANALYSIS**  
ALC: 14.9% | TA: 6.0G/L | PH: 3.64

**ALWAYS POLISHED  
NEVER DULL**

# STERLING®

VINEYARDS

## Tim Irwin

Director of Education, Sterling Vineyards

Tim Irwin has worked in the wine industry for more than a decade. He began his career in New South Wales, Australia, where he earned a *Bachelor of Viticulture and Winemaking* degree. He relocated to the United States in early 2007 to manage a range of prestige wine brands, including Penfolds, a globally respected winery with impressive accolades. Tim has also completed formal certification from the *Wine and Spirits Education Trust* of London in 2011.



Tim joined the Sterling Vineyards team in January 2016, excited to share the most visited California winery and its wines with American wine lovers. As *Global Brand Director*, Tim helped usher in a new era at Sterling Vineyards, launching the winery's *Always Polished, Never Dull* advertising campaign, photographed by celebrity photographer Norman Jean Roy, with a new line of beautifully redesigned silver wine labels, as well as spearheading the redesign of the beloved winery's newly renovated tasting room and visitors center. In March 2018, Tim became the *Director of Education* for Treasury Wine Estates, the company that owns Sterling Vineyards. Under Tim's stewardship, he has reinvigorated the education team, amplifying the wine knowledge and passion shared with Sterling's loyal wine enthusiasts.

Tim is honored to return once again this year as Sterling Vineyards' Ambassador, championing the winery's continued relationship with the Television Academy, now in its third consecutive year as the Official Wine of the 70<sup>th</sup> Emmy Awards Season. Emmy nominees, presenters and members of the Television Academy, will be invited to celebrate the occasion with Sterling's award-winning wines, including a tasting of the soon-to-launch *Sterling Vineyards Platinum Cabernet Sauvignon*; and, as a special toast, the evening's winners will receive a personalized bottle of the winery's flagship *Sterling Vineyards Iridium Cabernet Sauvignon*, of which less than 2,000 bottles are made. Winners will also be treated to a glass of the exclusive wine while waiting for their Emmy Statuettes to be personalized in the Emmy Winner's Circle. Tim is a frequent TV guest, having appeared on E! News, Fox Business and Cheddar TV.