



CAYMUS VINEYARDS

2023 NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

For years now, family photos have appeared on the back label of Caymus Napa Valley Cabernet. This 2023 vintage features an early photo of my dad Charlie sitting on his tractor in the vineyard – he may have been thinking about getting into the wine business. After all, with four decades of making home wine behind him, the idea of having a winery would seem natural – and this is where I come into the picture.

My graduation from a high school located in the center of Napa Valley was followed by a moment I will never forget. My folks sat me down and asked if I would join them in establishing a commercial winery that would be called Caymus Vineyards (a historical name in the Valley). My commitment followed in short order and away we went preparing for our first vintage in 1972 – pruning vines, fermenting in open top tanks, racking wines using a hand pump, and bottling via manual equipment – and learning.

Thirty years working with my parents were filled with exploration of winemaking and vineyard keeping. Our collective interest continued to peak as did the pleasure in “living in the art.” We found ourselves engaged in one of the oldest occupations on earth, one that had been pursued by others for thousands of years, who also had committed their lives to producing enjoyable product from grapes.

We all three pitched in, as we founded Caymus. Today, Caymus is operated by myself and two of my children, Charlie and Jenny, who are following the art and living their lives as winegrowers.

2023 is a classic Caymus Cabernet vintage, a personal favorite – I relish vintages like this. The growing season was relatively uneventful. Some summer days were quite warm, but the style of Caymus demands dry and warm weather conditions. We started picking the stoney soils of the valley floor in September. We then turned our sites to the cooler climate hillsides where the backbone of Caymus resides. We finished harvest in early December, one of the latest harvests we have ever had. A rain-free and lengthy autumn allowed for thorough ripeness that elevated the round, rich concentration and luxuriously ripe tannins of this vintage.



Chuck Wagner

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