

CAYMUS VINEYARDS

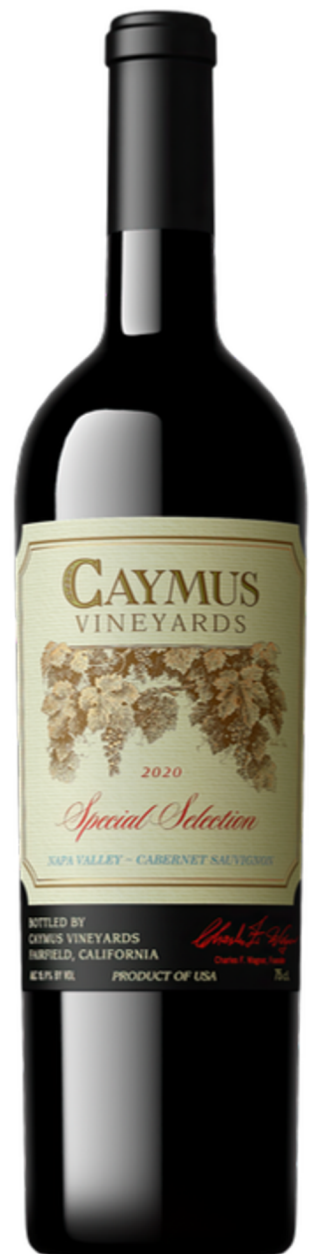
2020 SPECIAL SELECTION CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY

A brooding bouquet of cassis, alfalfa bale and tilled soil. The wine builds on the palate with chocolate-like richness, alongside flavors of ripe dried fruits. With fine textural grittiness that's enjoyable, the wine is complex and inviting today. On a personal note, Christmas comes alive as I assess this wine — notes of potpourri, cinnamon, nutmeg and a hot oven, invoking memories of my mother Lorna Belle Wagner's fruit cake. Her recipe was inspired by some special candied fruit, and always, a family favorite.

2020 being a “fire year” posed an issue for Napa Valley wines with the potential to express off characters known as smoke taint. Many Cabernet grapes remained hanging on the vine while productions in Napa County fell sharply. Caymus took a wary and cautious approach to the vintage that included “Napa Valley-wide sourcing,” harvesting between the smoke burdened areas. Although 2020 Napa Cabernet borders on scarcity, some excellent wines were produced. As example — and perhaps surprising to some — the Caymus 2020 Napa Valley bottling turned out to be my favorite vintage since 2009, and the 2020 Special Selection is even richer and more intriguing.

I feel this wine is a good example of the Caymus style. Without hard tannins or high tartness, the wine is balanced and I would even say “friendly to the palate.” Reflecting on previous vintages of this bottling, the 2020 will benefit from 10+ years in bottle.

Chuck Wagner
owner and winemaker



“What consumers have to say about wine is most important to the winemakers of Caymus. Their views deserve the greatest respect and will continue to guide the production of Caymus Cabernet.”