

# ANCIENT PEAKS

v. 2023 | **CABERNET SAUVIGNON**

PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA | SANTA MARGARITA RANCH



## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

### OVERVIEW

Cabernet Sauvignon is the longtime flagship wine of Ancient Peaks, helping drive the emergence of Paso Robles as a world-class region for this classic Bordeaux variety. At our estate Margarita Vineyard, Cabernet Sauvignon achieves both ripeness and balance amid one of the region's coolest, longest growing seasons, all while drawing natural complexity from the vineyard's uniquely complex soils.

### VINEYARD

The 2023 vintage spans a range of diverse Cabernet Sauvignon blocks from across Santa Margarita Ranch, collectively planted to soils of calcareous ancient sea bed, Monterey shale and rocky alluvium. These blocks feature many of Margarita Vineyard's original mature plantings as well as multiple newer blocks and clones. These different blocks, clones and soil profiles combine to create a naturally complex and multi-layered estate Cabernet Sauvignon with a signature mingling of red and black fruit flavors. Margarita Vineyard stands alone as the southernmost vineyard in the Paso Robles region, nestled into the rugged Santa Lucia Mountain range just 14 miles from the Pacific Ocean in the Santa Margarita Ranch AVA. The mountain peaks act as a gateway for cool marine air, resulting in an extended growing season that yields fruit with uncommon depth and structure. The peaks are also testaments to the tectonic forces that created Margarita Vineyard's rare diversity of soils, ultimately creating natural complexity in our wines.

### WINEMAKING

The 2023 vintage was marked by relatively cool spring and summer conditions, followed by a pitch-perfect warming trend that brought the harvest season to a long and steady conclusion—making it a true winemaker's vintage. Each individual block of Cabernet Sauvignon was picked at individual ripeness during a monthlong period. The lots were gently destemmed and cold soaked for 48 hours prior to fermentation for a smooth extraction of color and flavor. After fermentation, the lots were racked to an equal combination of French and American oak barrels, where they aged for 24 months prior to blending and bottling. Small complements of estate-grown Petit Verdot, Syrah and Petite Sirah were incorporated into the final blend for enhanced color, mouthfeel and flavor dimension.

### TASTING NOTES

The 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon is aromatically nuanced with scents of violet, black cherry, mulberry and tobacco, while hints of leather, cocoa dust and vanilla emerge with time in the glass. A deep, juicy mouthfeel envelops the palate with fresh flavors of red currant, cherry, black plum, tea and earthy loam accompanied by notes of cedar and caramel. Bright tannins carry into a fresh, structured finish.

### CUISINE PAIRING

This is an elegant Cabernet Sauvignon that shines with food. Recommended pairings include New York strip steak, duck breast, rack of lamb, portobello mushrooms and aged cheeses.

### VINEYARD:

Margarita Vineyard

### SOIL TYPE:

Ancient Sea Bed   
Rocky Alluvium   
Shale 

### VARIETAL COMPOSITION:

Cabernet Sauvignon (89%)  
Syrah (5%)  
Petit Verdot (3%)  
Petite Sirah (3%)

### HARVEST DATES:

October 4 through November 7

### AGING REGIMEN:

24 months in French and American oak barrels (25% new)

### FINAL ANALYSIS:

Alcohol: 14.2%  
TA: .62  
pH: 3.60



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