

Secret Door J-M-L Cabernet Sauv Napa Valley

THE FACTS

COUNTRY: USA - CA

REGION: Napa

APPELLATION: Napa Valley

CEPAGE: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

WINEMAKING: Hand harvested & sorted, entirely de-stemmed, stainless steel fermentation, 2 x per day pumpover, 22 months in barrel

ALCOHOL BY VOLUME: 13.5%

AGING: 100% new Bordeaux barrels, 22 months

ANNUAL PRODUCTION: 449 cases

THE STORY

Secret Door is a love story. When Donald Patz met Jung Min Lee, she made clear that while his Patz & Hall wines were "nice," her heart belonged to Bordeaux. He made her a promise: move to California, and someday he'd make her a Cabernet Sauvignon. Secret Door is that promise kept — a Napa Valley project built not from ambition alone, but from devotion.

PHILOSOPHY: Secret Door is Donald Patz's exploration of Napa in a "neoclassic" key — picking slightly earlier for structure, using 100% new French oak for complexity, and sourcing from select Napa Valley sites with close grower collaboration. The goal is harmony: wines with California richness held in check by genuine balance and age-worthiness.

THE SELLING POINTS

Soscol Ridge, Sage Ridge, Caldwell, & Phelan Ranch Vineyards

AWARDS: 94pts James Suckling

SUSTAINABILITY: Sustainable In Practice, Minimal Intervention / Augmentation

