



THE GRADE
CELLARS

2015 THE GRADE Cellars “Serpent’s Back” Cabernet Sauvignon



Variety:	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Appellation:	Napa Valley Calistoga Sub-AVA
Proprietors:	Brenda Mixson & Tom Thornton
Winemaker:	Thomas Rivers Brown
Release Date:	September 2018
Release Price:	\$125 retail per 750ml
Vineyard:	Winfield Vineyard (100% Estate Grown) Old Toll Road, Calistoga, CA
Harvest Date:	October 3, 2015
Vines:	Block 4 – Clone 337on R/S 101-14
Cooperage:	100% French Oak from Treuil and Jarnac (75% new)
Aging:	20 months; Bottled June 21, 2017
Panel:	14.6 % Alcohol; 3.83 pH; 6.0 g/L Titratable Acidity
Production:	100 cases

Winemaker’s Tasting Notes:

“The miniscule quantity of fruit in 2015 is a blessing and a curse. A blessing because we had small clusters and small berry size, which meant during fermentation there was a high skin-to-juice ratio. The color and flavor compounds originate in the skins, so more skin contact in this case means impenetrably dark wines and waves of complex flavors.

“In the glass this wine displays an opaque purple hue. Complimenting aromas of flowering jasmine, peppermint, distressed leather and sandalwood emanate in waves.

“The palate expresses notes of bittersweet chocolate, cinnamon, umami, and macerated currant. The mouth feel is remarkably sleek and accessible, given the dense and structured fruit profile that still has years to go before the true nature of this wine comes to life. The only downside here is quantity. These wines will disappear quickly.”

-- Thomas Brown