



2021 PETER MARTIN RAY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Peter's late father, the winemaking iconoclast Martin Ray, began planting Chardonnay and Pinot Noir here in the Santa Cruz Mountains in 1943, adding Cabernet Sauvignon to this ridgetop in the mid-1950s. In 1972, much of the original land was ceded to his investors and became Mt. Eden, but the Ray family kept two choice parcels of the historic property. One of the most celebrated neighborhoods in California winedom, the Peter Martin Ray Vineyard lies in the *Chaine d'Or* of the Santa Cruz Mountains- a celebrated hilltop of shallow Franciscan shale, farmed organically and without irrigation high above Silicon Valley, just to the southeast of Ridge's Montebello, and sharing the same Mount Eden Mountaintop with Mt. Eden.

Since the Ray family first approached us after tasting our wines in 2017, the offer of grapes from this viticultural holy land could not be refused, even by two Cabernet agnostics. Though we are more temperamentally inclined towards improvisation, vinification proceeded strictly according to Hoyle: early morning harvest; 100% destemming; primary fermentation without inoculation; 22 day cuvaision; 21 month elevage in 20% new French barrels; bottling with neither fining nor filtering after a single rack to bottling tank. In one departure from mountain Cabernet orthodoxy, we decided against mid-elevage racks, as the wine never gave a hint of reduction. The 2021 vintage is a dark purple crimson, with amazingly dense aromas of black currant and violets, and a long finish that remains wonderfully lifted and fresh, but firmly supported by fine tannins that remind us of the lineage of the source material for these vines: cuttings brought in the 1880s from Château Margaux.

This is an elegant, and age-worthy wine from one of the most renowned sites in California, farmed to the highest standard. It should greet the 2030s and 40s with great élan.

Harvest Date: Sept. 13th 2021
Composition: Cabernet Sauvignon 100%
Appellation: Santa Cruz Mountains
Alc.: 13.0%
Total Production: 3 barrels

