



2011 Affinity Cabernet Sauvignon

Blend: 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot,
10% Petit Verdot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 1% Malbec

THE BACKGROUND

Affinity (A FIN' I TE) N.

1. The perfect unity of components sharing a special origin.

Hatched from the cabernet-infused mind of Bob Craig in 1993, this Bordeaux-inspired wine is a blend of the Left Bank Five (Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, Malbec) with Cabernet Sauvignon commanding the lead on the dance floor. The Cabernet Sauvignon from this hillside property is unusually racy, and mineral laden, even for a boulder strewn, Napa Valley vineyard. The addition of the other four Bordeaux varieties is necessary for the depth, dimension and layers that are present in the wine each vintage; Petit Verdot for color, Malbec for weight, Cabernet Franc for structure and Merlot for luxurious mouthfeel. The fruit is hand picked and hand sorted, then kept in separate lots during fermentation and barrel aging. The resulting cabernet has an affinity for braised meats, grilled fish, hearty pastas, good books, fireplaces and summer evenings on the patio.

THE VINEYARD

The core of our Affinity Cabernet Sauvignon is sourced from our estate vineyard in the foothills of Mount George on the southern end of Napa Valley's Vaca mountain range. The yields almost always fail to reach three tons per acre (that's very low for you non-farmers!) and the soils are unusually rocky and sparse. The vines are in their third decade of existence, and that makes for great concentration and a sense of origin in the resulting wine. Affinity Cabernet displays a charm in its youth each vintage due to the harmony brought forth in blending, but the structure offered by the volcanic soils means that this wine will reward patience in the cellar.

VINTAGE

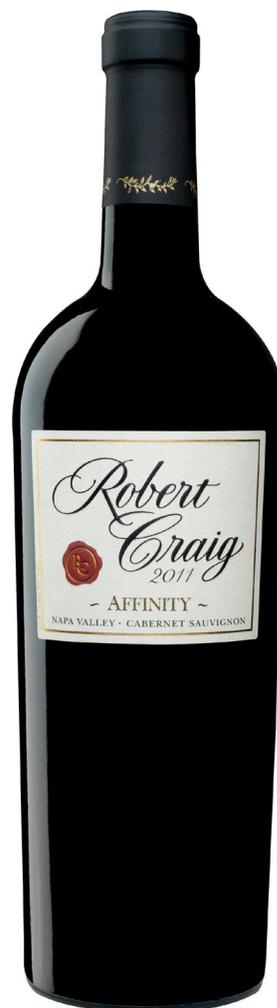
2011 was cold and wet in the spring, cool in the summer, and cold and wet at harvest. With long hang times, a short crop, and well drained soils, the 2011 vintage wines are an expression of growing site more so than in riper years. The mountain and hillside vineyards of Napa Valley produced wines which are deep, inviting and terroir-infused in an unusual vintage.

SEEK OUT

... if you love wines with power and finesse whether Piedmont, Bordeaux or Napa Valley. You have enjoyed Jeremy Irons' nuanced performances over the years.

AVOID

... if you just asked "Who is Jeremy Irons?" or you often find that Australian Shiraz just isn't ripe enough.



TECH INFO

Harvest dates: Oct 2 – Nov 3, 2011

Average sugar: 24.8° Brix

TA: 6.0g/L | pH: 3.75

Alcohol: 14.4%

Barrel Aging: 18 months in Chateau-style French oak;

65% new & 35% 2nd year. Unfiltered and unfined.

Bottling Date: April 24, 2013

Price: California suggested retail price is \$55.00 per bottle