



GROWING SEASON

Mother Nature was very good to us right out of the gate, and delivered a truly superb vintage. After years of drought, we received more than 80 percent of the year's average annual rainfall before winter ended. This kicked off the growing season on a promising note, because every great vintage begins with ample water in the ground before bud break. After weeks of intermittent rain storms in December and January, a record heat wave hit in mid-February, which triggered yet another early bud break. Flowering began in early May, which is typical timing, and despite some rainy days and a little wind, the flowers pollinated successfully in our earlier-ripening vineyards.

A curve ball came our way from mid-May through Memorial Day weekend, in the form of a few rain showers punctuated by two heat spikes. This disrupted the bloom of some later-ripening vineyards, which reduced the quantity—but not the quality—of the grape clusters. The good news is that many of the Jordan Cabernet Sauvignon grower vineyards had already bloomed 75-100 percent before the inclement weather arrived.

Cool temperatures and misty fog lingered well into late morning most days throughout August, and highs stayed in the upper 70s and low 80s—about 10 degrees below average. There was just enough sunshine, but without intense heat, which allowed the grapes to ripen slowly, developing complex flavors.

VINEYARDS

The final blend for the 2016 Jordan Cabernet Sauvignon began with 60 vineyard blocks from Jordan Estate and 14 family growers. Our vineyard sites are selected for their well-drained, gravelly soils in the warmer Alexander Valley, which allow the grapes to gain physiological maturity without sacrificing pure varietal character, bright acidity and moderate sugar levels. In order to ensure that we receive the best-quality fruit, Jordan's growers are paid by the acre rather than by the ton, and are further rewarded for farming decisions that enhance quality. It is this necessary combination of climate, soil and husbandry that shares a common thread with the grand cru classé Bordeaux that inspire our style of winemaking.

VITICULTURE

The early bud break required us to slightly alter our farming practices in order to avoid frost damage. This meant mowing our cover crops earlier than normal to ensure that the cold air wouldn't be trapped within the rows of actively growing vines.

HARVEST

Harvest for Jordan's Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon began on September 8 and concluded on October 7—the eve of our official 40th anniversary. This was an average-sized crop, but with flavor and complexity on par with the exceptional 2012 vintage. Right off the vine, the fruit aromas were bright, beautiful and rich, and the grapes showed great intensity of fruit flavors.

-Maggie Kruse, winemaker