

FLINT KNOLL

2021 Royal Appointment

Napa Valley - Stags Leap & Calistoga | Varietal: Cabernet Sauvignon

Alcohol: 14.8% | **Élevage:** 21 months in 85% New French Oak | **Case Production:** 345

Winemaker: Philippe Melka

VINTAGE

The Reduced winter rains of 2021 brought a second consecutive year of drought that was felt across the valley. Most AVA's received less than 10 inches of rain and experienced lower temperatures than in 2020. These headwinds, coupled with dry, difficult conditions, during bud determination in 2020, resulted in a light vintage for 2021. Earlier ripening sites, on hillsides or with limited soil water, trended even earlier than normal due to the dry conditions and lightened crop load. Those sites with heavier, cooler and clay-laden soils were harvested later in the season and closer to the expected. All told, Flint Knoll's red grape harvest began September 14th and wrapped up on September 25th. Overall grape quality is quite exceptional across the board with great color, balanced tannin structure and ideal chemistry.

BACKGROUND

About the brand: Founded in 2016 by Aaron and Meredith Michaelis, Flint Knoll is a boutique luxury Napa Valley wine brand that crafts limited-production, site-specific wines made by world-renowned winemaking team Philippe Melka and Maayan Koschitzky.



TASTING NOTES

Our 2021 Royal Appointment weaves together the rich, concentrated elegance and power of some of the best valley floor vineyard sites from Calistoga & Stags Leap. This wine is aged for 21 months in the finest French oak barrels and blended with meticulous care by Philippe Melka. The result – a Cabernet with a complex array of aromas and flavors that delivers a plush, mouth-filling structure with soft, elegant tannins. It offers a bouquet of dusty raspberries & blackberries, plums, dark currants, wildflowers, cacao and spice that follow through on the palate. A bit softer than our single vineyard wines, this wine is drinking beautifully in its youth and will offer greater nuance and complexity with cellaring.

BARRIQUE

The Flint Knoll aging program is built around the most coveted barrels that are accessible only through personal relationships with top cooperages. Collectively, these barrels provide for seamless oak integration and staggering complexity over a maturation period of 20-24 months. Taransaud, Darnajou, Redmond, Sylvain.