

CELLAR MASTER WINE CLUB

September 2022

2018 Bella Union Cabernet Sauvignon

Napa Valley, California



One of the most prestigious wines of the world capable of great power and grace, Napa Valley Cabernet is a leading force in the world of fine, famous, collectible red wine. Today the Napa Valley and Cabernet Sauvignon are so intrinsically linked that it is difficult to discuss one without the other. But it wasn't until the 1970s that this marriage came to light; sudden international recognition rained upon Napa with the victory of the Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 1973 Cabernet Sauvignon in the 1976 Judgement of Paris.

Bella Union specializes in the art of blending Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. It was founded in 2012 by the partners of Far Niente and Nickel & Nickel, who, for more than 30 years, have been growing, making and enjoying Napa Valley Cabernet. Bella Union is the natural next step in our evolution as Cabernet wine-makers.

The winery is located on a 25-acre Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard along Bella Oaks Lane, a storied Cabernet growing area in the heart of Rutherford. The name, Bella Union, is a nod to the history of Bella Oaks Lane, which was known as the Bella Union Roadway in the 1880s. At that time, the country lane led into the Mayacamas Mountains and eventually to the Bella Union Mining Company.

Creating a truly beautiful and harmonious union of vineyards across the Napa Valley requires an artful blend of carefully selected sites and traditional varietals complementary to Cabernet Sauvignon. It is in this spirit that the Bella Union winery was born.

And it is in this spirit that they continue to produce the most astounding union of Cabernet flavors in Napa Valley.

While the Rutherford vineyard is the cornerstone of the operation, this Cabernet isn't bound by a single parcel of land. Rather, they apply the sum of their knowledge of the Napa Valley region to pinpoint the region's best wine grapes to complement their own for a delicate blend of taste and texture.

Now in its seventh vintage, this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon from exceptional vineyard blocks across the Napa Valley develops texture and richness in the glass, sip after sip. It is, indeed, a beautiful union.

bellaunionwinery.farniente.com

"An array of bright red fruit with herbal undertones opens the way to a core of grippy concentration and powerful ripeness in this ageworthy wine. The tannins are structured and considerable. Enjoy 2028–2033." **Wine Enthusiast 93**

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SPECIAL Member discount while supplies last! \$59.99/btl

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2020 Chateau Font du Loup Demoiselles

Chateauneuf-du-Pape, France

Chateauneuf-du-Pape is a historic village between the towns of Orange and Avignon, in France's southern Rhone Valley. It is famous for powerful, full-bodied red wine, largely made from the classic southern Rhone grape trio of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvedre.

These three varieties are behind the vast majority of the appellation's red wines. However, a total of eighteen red and white grape varieties are approved for use.

Grenache is the principle variety of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. It is well suited to the terroir and performs better here than in any other French wine region. Varietal Grenache is juicy with jammy red-fruit and black-cherry flavors with a high potential alcohol. It is aged in either vats or oak barrels for up to 18 months to create a rich and complex wine.

Located at one of the highest points in Chateauneufdu-Pape, Chateau Font du Loup, which translates to 'fountain of the wolves', is named after the natural springs in the area where the wolves would come to drink.

Font du Loup has been in the Melia family since 1942 and is now run by the charming Anne-Charlotte Melia-Bachas and her husband Laurent. Font du Loup has roughly 20 hectares (organically farmed – although not certified), including holdings in the La Crau vineyards, and is planted on mostly sandy soil with vines that reach 100 years old. It is located in one of the coolest appellation places with slow ripening of the grapes. The wines are made in an elegant, pure, pretty style and are as warm and inviting as the good Anne-Charlotte and Laurent.

Featuring bright, spicy red-fruit aromas, this is an exciting wine just to smell. Add in flavors of raspberry and cream, a lush texture, ample weight and a long-spice-driven finish, and you've got the whole package: it offers an easygoing mouthful of fruit, rewarding early consumption.

Chateau Font du Loup is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, stewed dishes, barbecue, sausage and cassoulet. Chateau Font du Loup is also good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms pasta, eggplant, cheese and tomatoes.

www.artisansandvines.com

\$44.99/btl

Member discount on additional btls: **\$40.49/btl**

