

Hatton Daniels | Cabernet Sauvignon

Phillip French Vineyard | Napa Valley AVA



The Story: This is a true story of expecting to kiss a frog and finding beautiful wines and great people. Hatton Daniels is a tiny Napa winery working with unusual varietals: Dornfelder, Blaufränkisch, Zweigelt, and Malvasia Bianco, in addition to Pinot Noir and Cabernet Sauvignon. Dan Fishman is the winemaker, who in 2007 worked at Calvert Woodley Fine Wine & Spirits in DC. He makes some of the most interesting California wines we have tasted in a long time. Production ranges from 25-115 cases so there is not much to go around, but they are worth seeking out.

Vineyard: Phillip French is a tiny vineyard located top of a steep hill in between Coombsville and Atlas Peak. With stunning views of the Napa Valley below, the vines slide down the hill in all directions in volcanic soils, resulting in a variety of aspects, contributing to the complexity of the finished wine. The first vintage using fruit from here was in 2013 so by 2014 they knew they were working with some great fruit. Grapes were harvested at 23 brix and completely de-stemmed.

Vinification: Berries were left whole and fermentation began with use of native yeast after about one week. Fermentation began using native yeast after about a week. The tannin and color were a little difficult to extract in 2014, so maceration lasted nearly three weeks, with punchdowns at the end of primary fermentation.

Ageing: Aged in 500L barrels for 14 months.

Everything else you want to know about this wine: In 2014 Hatton Daniels decided to age the cabernet in 500L barrels (as opposed to the usual size of 225L), which makes the oak impression less severe, and also should allow the wine to age more slowly. The Cabernet was bottled with no fining or filtration. It is luxurious without being over the top or over ripe, with good acid and tannin structure which will allow the wine to continue to develop complexity.

Varietal: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

Region: North Coast AVA, CA

Winemaker: Dan Fishman

Vines Age: Various

Production: 1,368 bottles

Farming: Working Organic

Soil: Volcanic

Le Storie
Wines