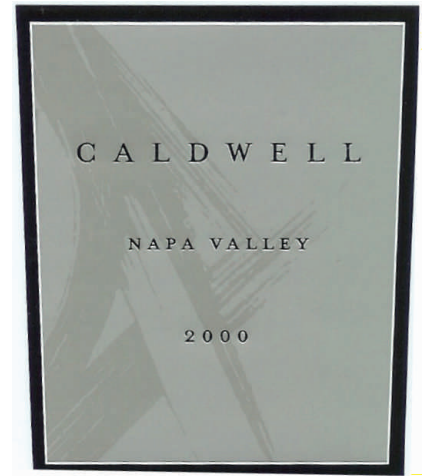


**Caldwell  
2000  
Cabernet Sauvignon  
Napa Valley**



**Tasting Notes:**

Brilliant, deep red/blue color. Rich aromas of black cherry and black raspberry, with spicy, licorice tones. Juicy black plum, blackberry, red licorice, and coffee flavors lie plush and silky across the palate. Supple and balanced, well structured with ample support from the very fine tannins. The lingering aftertaste has a mineral component that adds to the wine's enormous appeal

**Winemaking Notes:**

**Vineyard**

First planted to grapes in 1982, the Caldwell Vineyard boasts all of the essentials needed to grow consistently great fruit. The soils are shallow (two and a half feet deep), reddish brown in color, low in nutrients and laced with volcanic ash and fist-sized rocks. The vineyard has a northwestern exposure, moderating daytime temperatures and extending the warmth of the sun into the late afternoon. At 500 feet above sea level, the site sits above the daily fog that regularly blankets the region.

**Weather**

In 2000 the Caldwell Vineyard experienced classic Napa Valley growing conditions of warm days and cool nights resulting in a crop with excellent color, fully developed flavors and great acidity. Diligent work in the vineyard to limit a large crop set helped optimize richness in the grapes. Cool weather during harvest provided enhanced flavor development.

**Winemaking**

Earnest assessment of the grapes for physiological ripeness begins as the sugars reach 25° Brix. Grape samples are then evaluated daily for color, aroma, and flavor of the skins and juice. The decision is made to pick all or part of a vineyard-block when ripeness is considered optimal. The primary fermentation is in small stainless steel and French oak tanks. Depending on the grape variety, an extended maceration may last 21 to 55 days before the young wine is pressed and transferred to small French oak barrels for aging.

**Tasting Notes:**

Data:  
Composition: 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Syrah, 20% Merlot.  
Appellation: Napa Valley  
Vineyard: Caldwell  
Blocks: Cabernet Sauvignon: Block 18  
Merlot: Block 14  
Syrah: Block 18  
Winemaker: Philippe Melka  
Aging: 18 months in 60% new French oak barrels.  
Alcohol: 14.4%  
Production: 690 cases