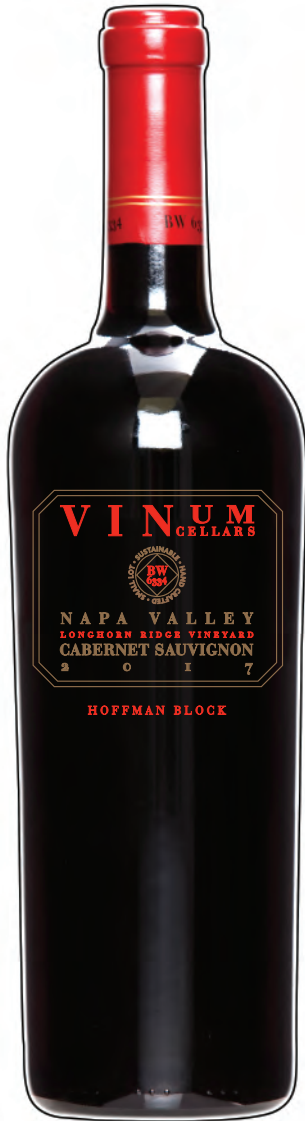


# VINUM CELLARS

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## 2017 CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY LONGHORN RIDGE VINEYARD, HOFFMAN BLOCK

The east side of the Napa Valley off Monticello Rd is where much of the best fruit in the Napa Valley is grown. Many of the grapes that go into Caymus Special Select and others are from there and it is well known among winemakers this is where much of the best fruit in Napa comes from. Longhorn Ridge Vineyard is exactly 606 yards from the Atlas Peak AVA which makes our well drained soil, moderate climate and mountainous, rocky terrain identical.

The Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard grapes from Longhorn Ridge, Hoffman Block are clone 23 (the Laurel Glen clone) and produce small clusters with tiny berries; more the size of an English Pea than a Cabernet Sauvignon grape. This small size berry produces intense, heavily extracted Cabernet Sauvignon wines every vintage from these vines that yield only 1-2 tons per acre.

Winemaker Richard Bruno discovered this vineyard in 2005 and purchased the first commercial crop from this vineyard. It was clear then this was exceptional fruit. In Vinum's first long term, multi-year contract, Richard wrote in a right of first refusal clause to buy the property should the then owners decide to ever sell. That dream became reality in 2018 when Richard bought the property with another partner (the late veteran winemaker Sam Balakian). Since the 2018 vintage the farming changed to organic and sustainable farming. The cuttings are never burned nor is Round Up used and all sprays are allowed under Organic Certification. We expect to be certified organic in 2022.

Many updates and equipment purchases have occurred since the purchase including a state-of-the-art irrigation system, two frost fans and a disc and ring roller to help get oxygen into the soil and reduce weeds in the vine rows. The original vines have been retrained by removing excess wood. The conversion from a unilateral cordon system toward a four spur can method has allowed plant rejuvenation in the form of more energy (carbohydrate) available to each plant. This will help the vines to become more healthy and balanced and will likely add years of production. We have added missing vines within the block and lengthened some rows as well as planted two new small blocks. One is a half acre of Merlot (Rosemary's Block) and the other is three quarters of an acre of high density Cabernet Sauvignon (Sam's Block).

The grapes are hand picked early in the morning under the lights. The grapes are delivered to the winery early and destemmed into an open top fermenter. The must undergoes 3 days of cold soak followed by 8 days of fermentation. We extend maceration through 14 days after which we drain and gently press the must. We then barrel the wine down into 50% new and 50% 2 year old Chateau Margaux French oak barrels by Seguin Moreau which have been known to soften strong tannin Cabernet Sauvignon. Within these barrels we age the wine for 26 months and rack it a total of 5 times (initially after 2 months, then every six months). The use of only these barrels provides stylistic uniformity conforming to our desired style (rich, supple, velvet finish) vintage to vintage so that the differences are highlighted in the fruit, not the oak barrel profile. Simply put we believe it is the perfect balance between oak and fruit.

Varietal Composition...	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Appellation.....	Napa Valley
Winemakers.....	Richard Bruno & Chris Condos
Grower.....	Richard Bruno, Longhorn Ridge Vineyard, Hoffman Block
Alcohol.....	14.9%
TA.....	3.57g/L
pH.....	3.64
Aging.....	50% new French Oak, 50% 2 year old French Oak
Production.....	525 cases produced

The color on this intensely concentrated wine is an inky dark purple-plum and boyenberry color which showcases the intensity of this hillside, dry farmed fruit has. The aromas express dense core fruit and spice from longterm aging over 26 months in 50% new and 50% second year Chateau Margaux barrels. The palate of this wine expresses sweet bing cherry and cherry vanilla tones mixed with supple grape and vanilla oak tannins ideal for longterm cellar aging over 30 years. The wine is layered with cherry essence and a perfectly balanced, silky cherry vanilla and complex spice at its core. The texture on the finish is balanced and it's pedigree make this a must have Top Tier Napa Cabernet Sauvignon.

