



## 2014 ESTATE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**Harvest:** October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Vineyard Block:** Watchtower Vineyard

**Planted:** 2005

**Aspect:** Steep east-facing slope

**Soil:** Josephine Loam

**Rootstock:** Millardet ed de Grasset 101-14

**Clone:** 07, 191, 337

**Blend:** 86% Cabernet Sauvignon,  
7% Cabernet Franc, 7% Petite Verdot

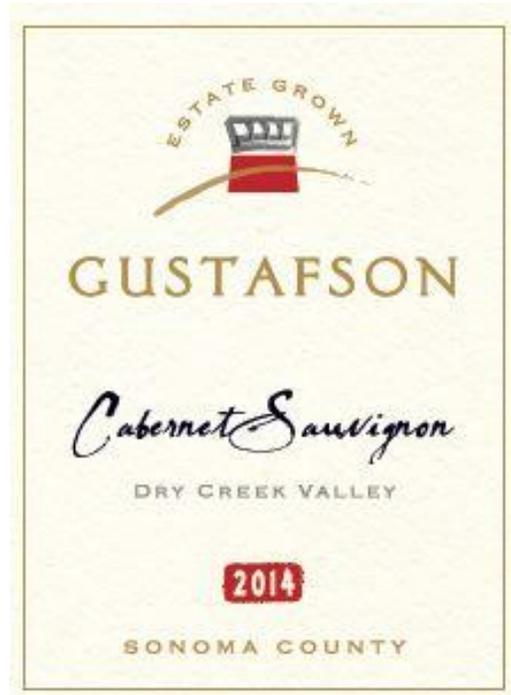
**Aging:** 26 Months French Oak, 60% New

**Alcohol:** 14.8%

**Total Production:** 358 cases

**Release Date:** Fall 2017

**Retail Price:** \$42.00



**Vintage Notes:** The 2014 vintage marked the third year of the ongoing California drought. Lower than average winter rains and above average temperatures created an early start to the growing season with bud break occurring on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The lack of soaking winter rains was mitigated by well-timed rains in mid-March (10.8 inches) which provided the vines with much needed soil moisture. These spring rains allowed us to maintain our usual watering program and not put extra stress on our wells. Following record crops in the previous two years, 2014 was a return to more normal crop sizes. The grapes from the 2014 vintage were of excellent quality and were harvested long before any threat of fall rains. The wines from this vintage are still exhibiting youthful exuberance and should age well for years to come.

**Winemaking Notes:** Following our largest ever harvest at the estate, 2014 marked a return to more “normal” vineyard yields. Picked in mid-October, the clusters showed classic Cab characteristics matched with firm and pleasant tannins. Breaking from our tradition of using only whole berry fermentation, we put roughly 20% of our Cab berries through the crush rollers to aid tannin extraction. The resulting wine shows dark red fruit notes backed by powerful tannins that linger on the palate. These increased tannins created an opportunity to use a larger amount of new French oak, which softens the tannins and adds depth to the wine.

**Tasting Notes:** Our 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon once again delivers that full-bodied complexity we’ve come to expect out of the Watchtower Vineyard block. Opening with black peppercorn and holiday spices, the nose features secondary aromas of toasted nuts, bell pepper, vanilla, and dark chocolate. The first sip, however, is a full-bodied burst of big, savory flavors. Peppered salami and bell pepper flavors are tempered by nuances of black currant, nutmeg, and tart cranberry. The mouth-watering acidity on this wine balances the concentrated tannin structure, leaving you thirsty for another sip.