

PUNCH VINEYARDS

10TH Vintage

PUNCH CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2016

84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 4% Malbec, 2% Merlot.

The core of the wine was grown on Spring Mountain in Napa Valley, with additional lots from other California vineyards.

Alcohol 14.5%; Residual Sugar 0.23%; Volatile Acidity .72g/L; Titratable Acidity 6.6g/L; pH 3.81

Director of Winemaking: Miguel Caratachea. 598 cases made. Suggested retail price: \$45.

2016 marks Punch's tenth vintage, a tale of agony, love of great wine and a landmark few achieve. To friends old and new we say, "Thank you" for joining our rogue Napa Valley escapade and staying with us as we poke a bit of fun at the high and mighty and share many gallons of terribly good wine.

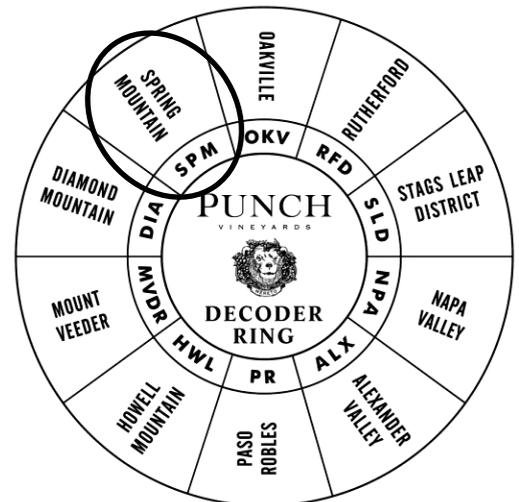
Some might have said that Punch, lead by the California grizzly with an uncanny sense of taste, was destined for glory. But at the beginning we had no vineyards (still none), no winery (still none), and no money (still none). But wealth can't buy what uniquely belongs to Punch: tight connections with grape growers, one of the cleverest winemakers in Napa Valley, and rampant lunacy (In a valley full of stodgy investors, important lawyers, and glitzy movie stars, at least we stand for *something*).

Punch's secret weapon is our director of winemaking, our *primus inter pares*, Miguel Caratachea. He is the un-named genius behind several well known "cult" wineries. At last count, 27 of his wines scored 90+ in *Wine Spectator* (4 were 94+), and 24 earned 90+ in Parker's *Wine Advocate* (10 were 94+). But most amusing was the time Napa Valley's all-time leader in 90+point wines came up and said "Lee, your wines are so good they make me ANGRY!"

Punch quality depends also on Napa Valley best hillside grapes, which are *very* hard to come by. So we put "California" appellation on our front label, for flexibility, then wait for *Punch* to sniff out grapes from his favorite sites around the valley. This "system" has brought some rather unmemorable moments, like the 2008 vintage when the owner of Napa Valley's most prestigious vineyard (average bottle price \$250+) personally tracked Lee down to find out how *Punch* (\$45) got his grapes.

Or the 2014 vintage, when Punch was – how shall we say it? – the beneficiary of Napa Valley's version of the final scene of MacBeth. So naturally that year's release party theme was Shakespeare. We have a feeling there will be many more episodes to share. Stay tuned and keep enjoying your *Punch!*

Punch 2016 Wine List Description: Classic hillside Napa Valley Cab style with concentrated flavors of black cherry, blackberry, subtle spices and rose petal. Fine, firm tannins from grape skins, with subtle vanilla notes from oak barrel aging. Old world like velvety texture & long, mouth-watering finish.



DECODER RING: look for the secret code in the little box on Punch's back label. This indicates the primary grape source each vintage. Vintage 2016 is core Spring Mountain.