

*By Insiders.*



*For Insiders.*

## PUNCH BRACERO CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2017

*96% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Petit Verdot, 1% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc, 1% Malbec.*

*Grown on Spring Mountain and Diamond Mountain in Napa Valley.*

*Alcohol 14.5%; Residual Sugar 0.26%; Volatile Acidity .67 g/L; Titratable Acidity 4.8g/L; pH 3.72*

*98 cases made. Drink 2020-2025. Winemaker: Miguel Caratachea.*

**Bracero** - A Mexican national working as an agricultural laborer in the United States from 1942-1964, or similarly a railroad worker from 1942-1945. "One who works with his arms."

### **VINTAGE 2017**

Vintage 2017 was the third draught vintage in a row. The vines struggled. The grapes were small. Then the fires hit. Miguel's amazing sense of the grapes told him the air was too dry, too hot, and too windy. He called up the vineyard crew on Sunday, their only day off, to harvest this wine. These grapes were – we believe – the last grapes harvested in Napa Valley before the conflagration, picked just 7 hours before the fires began their dismal destruction. The grapes were grown on east-facing (morning sun/early shade) Diamond Mountain and Spring Mountain in Napa Valley.

### **WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

Often such fruit is so chalk full of tannins that they are undrinkable for ten years. But Miguel is a maestro – his skills tame the hefty hillside tannins like no one else in the valley. Punch Bracero is the most elevated, concentrated expression of Punch's style, emphasizing: (1) the pure flavors from the grapes; (2) velvety mouthfeel; and (3) mouthwatering finish. The wine was aged for 21 months in new French oak barrels, but the flavors and textures from the grapes dominate the wine.

### **OUR APPROACH**

Bracero is made by Director of Winemaking Miguel Caratachea to honor his father, Conrado. As a bracero, Conrado traveled California to work the fields and orchards, which lead him to Napa Valley in the 1960's. Later, his youngest son Miguel went to work in a cellar here and learned to make Cabernet Sauvignon before he graduated from high school. He is the consulting winemaker for several well known "boutique" wineries and has won dozens of 93-98 point wines. On Monday evenings Miguel hosts a sports talk show on America's oldest Spanish radio station, KBBF. Thus, Miguel is a local celebrity among those who are closest to Napa Valley's best wines: the vineyard workers and cellar hands, who keep him constantly informed on growing conditions, overlooked top quality grapes, and extra lots available from elite vintners. Punch Bracero is made of all five red Bordeaux varieties to maintain balance in the Spring Mountain and Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon. - Lee Nordlund, Proprietor & Miguel Caratachea, Winemaker

*At Punch Vineyards we strive to craft unique wines that are highly gratifying to the natural sensitivities of experienced and casual wine drinkers alike. We break away from conventional techniques to express only flavors and textures from the grapes, with a velvety mouthfeel and mouthwatering finish unique to Punch.*