



2016 FIREBREAK®

CABERNET SAUVIGNON DESSERT WINE
NAPA VALLEY • STAGS LEAP DISTRICT

In 1981, a wildfire threatened to engulf John Shafer’s house, which overlooks the winery. After successfully battling the blaze, Shafer planted grapevines on the knoll around his home, creating a natural Firebreak. Produced from Cabernet Sauvignon grown on this and other prized blocks of Shafer’s Hillside Estate Vineyards, this wine is made in the style of late-bottled vintage dessert wine from Portugal. Aged in barrel for three years, it is approachable on release and will age gracefully over the next 20 years.

Release Date	September 1, 2020
Vineyard Locations	Shafer’s Hillside Estate Vineyards
The 2016 Growing Season	Plenty of rain in winter and spring ended a series of drought years and kicked off a long, warm growing season that produced clusters of fruit with deep color, pure flavors, and enticing aromas.
Varietal Composition	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Brix at Harvest	25°
Winemaking	After three to four days of intense pump-overs to extract color, tannins, and flavors from the crushed hillside fruit, the juice is then fortified with a neutral wine spirit to halt the yeast fermentation leaving behind the natural sugar accumulated during the vintage.
Cooperage	Aged in 100% once-used French oak barrels for 30 months
Alcohol	20%



WINEMAKER’S COMMENTS

“The wine’s rich color provides the first hint of the deep, lush aromas and flavors that follow, offering a banquet of warm blueberry pie, caramelized brown sugar, vanilla, concentrated berry syrup, fried plantains, damp earth, and a pleasing minerality. Ripe, structured Stags Leap District tannins provide the perfect counterbalance to the natural sweetness that comes from our hillside fruit.” — ELIAS FERNANDEZ

SHAFFER VINEYARDS

Shafer Vineyards is a 30,000-case family owned winery in Napa Valley’s Stags Leap District. The Shafers own and farm 200 acres of estate vineyards, sources for Shafer’s Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Malbec, Merlot, Syrah, and Petite Sirah.