

# STERLING®

## VINEYARDS

### Lauren Kopit Winemaker



*Lauren Kopit, Winemaker*

Lauren Kopit is the Winemaker at Sterling Vineyards, supporting Senior Winemaker and General Manager Harry Hansen. Lauren has worked in the wine industry since graduating from UC Davis with a BS in Microbiology in 2009. Lauren began her career in winemaking labs, first as an intern at Franciscan Winery and then as a technician at Matchbook Wine Company, before returning to UC Davis to earn her Masters of Science in Viticulture and Enology. After graduating in 2013, Lauren experienced three harvests working at the small, ultra-premium Odette Estate Winery, followed by a role as Vintage cellar hand at New Zealand's Church Road Winery, before joining the Sterling Vineyards team in 2014.

"I was at Sterling one week and I knew I wanted to be here forever," remembers Lauren, who started as an Interim Assistant Winemaker before taking on the permanent role of Assistant Winemaker in June of 2015. At Sterling, Lauren notes, "The priority on quality and the passion from the whole team is incredibly inspiring." In her role as Winemaker, Lauren aids in the day-to-day operations of the winery and provides vineyard oversight, collaborating with Senior Winemaker Harry Hansen in finalizing all of the wine blends.

Winemaking combines all things Lauren truly enjoys: science, art, creativity, teaching and interacting with people. Lauren is an avid oil painter and amateur photographer. "The art of winemaking taps into a familiar creative process like painting," says Lauren. "I feel very lucky that I get to use both my love of science and my creativity on a daily basis."

Lauren grew up in Southern California and has a natural proclivity for the sun and outdoors. When not in the vineyards, you can find her enjoying sports, reading a good book or enjoying a glass of wine with friends.



**SOURCING:**  
NAPA VALLEY

**VARIETAL COMPOSITION:**  
100% CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**VINIFICATION:**  
18 MONTHS  
66% NEW FRENCH OAK

**ANALYSIS:**  
Alc: 14.9%  
TA: 6.6 g/L  
pH: 3.61

**ALWAYS POLISHED  
NEVER DULL**

## 2015 STERLING IRIDIUM NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Iridium is one of the rarest elements on earth. A very constrained and expensive resource, Iridium's uniqueness makes it incredibly valuable. Like the element, the Sterling Vineyards Iridium Cabernet Sauvignon is treasured. Made in only the very best vintages with the finest and most intense expression of Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, Iridium is the pinnacle of winemaking perfection.

### VINTAGE

The 2015 growing season was marked by pleasant weather with little pressure from heat spikes or unseasonable rain. A dry winter, common recently, was quickly followed by an equally dry spring, leading to an early bud break and fast start to the growing season. Warm weather continued throughout late spring and summer, allowing for the steady and sure development of flavors. The overall quality, complexity and balance in the vines produced exceptional fruit. The impact of the continuing drought was evident in slightly lighter crop loads, but the reduction in size was offset by an increase in quality as vineyard crews carefully selected fruit at harvest, allowing for only the finest fruit to be selected for Iridium.

### VINEYARDS

Cabernet Sauvignon is the signature variety of the Napa Valley and the appellation excels in producing outstanding expressions of this admired varietal. Napa Valley offers an ideal combination of topography, geology and climate that enables Cabernet Sauvignon to reach optimum ripeness, balance and finesse. And within the valley, there are exceptional vineyards and sub-appellations that produce some of the finest expressions of this noble grape. In Vintage 2015, winemaker Harry Hansen has selected notable lots from vineyards spanning key Napa Valley growing regions, including the Meigs Vineyard in Wooden Valley, Peterson Vineyard on Diamond Mountain, Sleeping Lady Vineyard in Yountville and the famed Hewitt Vineyard in Rutherford. The vineyards offer soils ranging from clay loam to tufa, with a variety of clones, exposures and ages.

### WINEMAKING

Fruit was hand-harvested and hand-sorted, selecting only the highest quality fruit for fermentation in a combination of concrete, French Oak and stainless vessels. The concrete tanks, relatively new to the winery, offered a significant purity of expression. Fruit was allowed to ferment for up to 15 days with regular pump-overs to extract deep color and rich flavors. The wine was then gently pressed, racked and aged for 18 months in 66% new French oak from COF toasted medium/medium plus from a mix of coopers including Gamba, Remond, Taransaud, Allary and Quintessence. Individual barrels from these top lots are aged separately and are tasted frequently before the final selection of only the most compelling barrels for Iridium.

### TASTING NOTES

Iridium is a wine designed to bring a singular thought to life: great wines come from great vineyards, and never so much as when the winemaking and winegrowing teams work hand in hand to carefully nurture the finest fruit toward a well-rewarded harvest. In 2015, Iridium exhibits the purity of fruit expression, polished tannins and rich texture that are quickly becoming the signature of this bold and opulent wine. Classic Napa Cabernet notes of mocha, cassis and dark fruits are accented with oak spice, caramel toffee and layered flavors that linger, leaving a lasting impression. Built to last, the wine will reveal its inner personality over many years to come.



#### SOURCING

NAPA VALLEY

**VARIETAL COMPOSITION**  
88% CABERNET SAUVIGNON,  
6% MERLOT, 6% MALBEC

**VINIFICATION**  
AGED 19 MONTHS  
50% FRENCH OAK (50% NEW), 25% EA.  
AMERICAN & HUNGARIAN OAK

**ANALYSIS**  
ALC: 14.9% | TA: 6.0G/L | PH: 3.64

**ALWAYS POLISHED  
NEVER DULL**

## 2015 PLATINUM CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Sterling Platinum wines bring to life true varietal expressions crafted for welcomed approachability, balanced with age-worthiness, giving life to the notion that these wines are Always Polished, Never Dull. Platinum expresses the depth, precision and intensity that is uniquely Napa Valley, testimony to the Sterling tradition of outstanding varietally focused Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, among the finest in Napa Valley.

#### VINTAGE & VINEYARDS

The 2015 growing season was marked by pleasant weather with little pressure from heat spikes or unseasonable rain. A dry winter, common recently, was quickly followed by an equally dry spring, leading to an early bud break and fast start to the growing season. Warm weather continued throughout late spring and summer, allowing for the steady and sure development of flavors. The overall quality, complexity and balance in the vines produced exceptional fruit. The impact of the continuing drought was evident in slightly lighter crop loads, but the reduction in size was offset by an increase in quality as vineyard crews carefully selected fruit at harvest, allowing for only the finest fruit to be selected for Platinum wines.

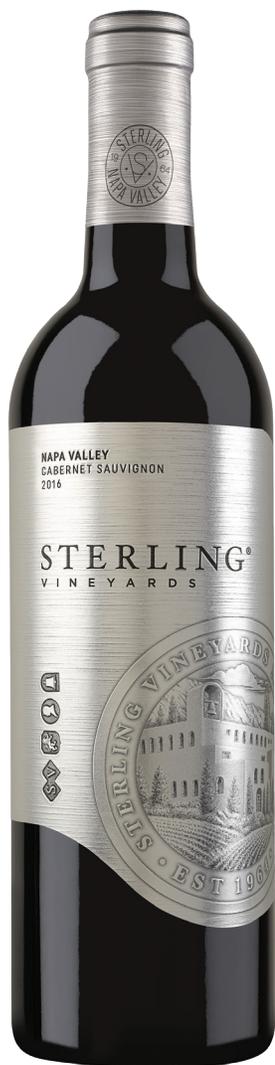
Cabernet Sauvignon is the signature variety of the Napa Valley and the appellation excels in producing outstanding examples of this admired varietal. Napa Valley offers an ideal combination of topography, geology and climate that enables Cabernet Sauvignon to reach optimum ripeness, balance and finesse. And within the valley, there are exceptional vineyards and sub-appellations that produce some of the finest expressions of this noble grape, truly Platinum worthy. In Vintage 2015, winemaker Harry Hansen has selected notable lots from vineyards spanning key Napa Valley growing regions, including the Meigs Vineyard in Wooden Valley, Moore Ranch in Napa Valley, Sleeping Lady Vineyard in Yountville and a trio of notable Calistoga vineyards, including Bear Flats, Barlow Ranch and BV Ranch 12. The vineyards offer soils ranging from clay loam to tufa, with a variety of clones, exposures and ages.

#### WINEMAKING

Fruit was hand-harvested and hand-sorted, selecting only the highest quality fruit for fermentation in stainless vessels. Fruit was allowed to ferment for up to 15 days with regular pump-overs to extract deep color and rich flavors. The wine was then gently pressed, racked and aged for 19 months in a combination of 50% French (50% new) and 25% each American and Hungarian oak. Barrels are COF toasted medium/medium plus from a mix of coopers including Gamba, Remond, Taransaud, Allary and Quintessence. Individual barrels are aged separately and are tasted frequently before the final selection of only the most compelling candidates for Platinum.

#### TASTING NOTES

Platinum is a wine designed to bring a singular thought to life: great wines come from great vineyards, and never so much as when the winemaking and winegrowing teams work hand in hand to carefully nurture the finest fruit toward a well-rewarded harvest. In 2015, Platinum Cabernet exhibits the purity of fruit expression, polished tannins and rich texture that are the essential signature of this rich, full-bodied wine. In this vintage the wine is showing more red fruits than previous vintages, with slightly sweeter vanilla tones from the American oak. Tannins are well developed, framing a wine with great structure and balance. Classic Napa Cabernet notes of mocha and cassis join Bing cherry accented with pepper and oak spice, caramel toffee and layered flavors that leave a lasting, subtly sweet impression.



**SOURCING:**  
NAPA VALLEY

**VARIETAL COMPOSITION:**  
92% CABERNET SAUVIGNON,  
3% PETIT VERDOT, 3% PETITE SIRAH,  
1% MALBEC, CABERNET FRANC

**VINIFICATION:**  
AGED 16 MONTHS IN FRENCH,  
AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN OAK,  
AVERAGE 30% NEW

**ANALYSIS:**  
Alc: 14.5%  
TA: .59 g/L  
pH: 3.76

**ALWAYS POLISHED  
NEVER DULL**

## 2016 NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Sterling Napa Valley wines show the depth, strength and expressive quality of California's most famous wine region. Fruit for Sterling wines is grown throughout Napa Valley, from the cool southern Carneros region next to San Pablo Bay to the rugged northernmost benchlands and reaches near our Calistoga homeplace. Sterling has more than five decades of winemaking excellence in Napa Valley, and winemaker Harry Hansen is able to build from that experience to select the finest lots to create the most memorable expressions of the varietal for each vintage. Key to the signature Sterling style is the contribution of fruit from our home base surrounding Calistoga, where fully ripe fruit offers soft tannins, black fruit profiles and approachability, alongside the firmer tannins evident in fruit from Diamond Mountain, offering great balance in the final assemblage and cuvée.

### VINTAGE

The extended drought was creating concern as the 2016 growing season began, but some welcomed winter rain hinted at relief to come. After a relatively dry January there was significant rainfall in February, along with mild temperatures. Bud break was early, but was slowed by heavy April showers. While still early by historical standards, picking began about a week later than 2015, and continued at a leisurely pace, allowing the grapes to reach full flavor maturity. The first noticeable fall rainstorm arrived mid-October, but offered no threat to the fruit. A traditionally sized harvest followed the lighter showing of 2015, and the extended season helped balance the acids and add complexity to the layers of flavors. Fruit was harvested as winemaker called the pick from September 14 to October 19, 2016.

### VINEYARDS & WINEMAKING

Cabernet Sauvignon reigns king in the Napa Valley and the appellation excels in producing outstanding expressions of this admired varietal. Napa Valley offers an ideal combination of topography, geology and climate that enables this varietal to reach optimum ripeness, balance and finesse. For this vintage, grapes were sourced primarily from traditional vineyards such as BV12 and Bear Flats Ranch in Calistoga, the Peterson Ranch and Diamond Mountain Ranch in the Diamond Mountain district, along with the Moore Ranch near the north shore of Lake Hennessey. The Calistoga appellation, our winery home, is one of the warmest areas in the valley but has extreme diurnal shifts, allowing the grapes to enjoy cool nights which maintain excellent acidity. At our newly renovated reserve winery, each lot is kept separate until the final blending, allowing for the selection of the most expressive and unique barrels to combine in the final blend. Each of these lots aged for 16 months in a combination of French, European and American oak barrels. Once ready, the barrels are carefully evaluated and only those reflecting the true hallmarks of the Napa Valley are selected for the final Napa Valley blend.

### TASTING NOTES

The power of Napa shows in the rich, deeply red garnet color with aromas and flavors of dark red and black fruits, including black cherry, raspberry, blackberry and ripe plum. Notes of mocha, oak spice and cassis are accented with sea salt caramel and vanilla bean. Intense and full-bodied, the wine is balanced and well structured with seamless acidity and evident but pleasing tannins. Approachable and welcoming now, the wine will continue to evolve and reveal more of its personality over the next decade.



**SOURCING:**  
NAPA VALLEY

**VARIETAL COMPOSITION:**  
99% SAUVIGNON BLANC,  
1% MALVASIA BIANCA

**VINIFICATION:**  
FERMENTED IN STAINLESS,  
WITH 10% OF THE WINE AGED  
IN NEUTRAL OAK FOR FIVE  
MONTHS

**ANALYSIS:**  
ALC: 13.9%  
TA: .64 G/L  
PH: 3.29

**ALWAYS POLISHED  
NEVER DULL**

## 2017 NAPA VALLEY SAUVIGNON BLANC

Sterling Vineyards Napa Valley wines show the depth, strength and incredible quality representative of California's most famous wine region. Grapes for Sterling Vineyards Napa Valley wines are grown in diverse and premium vineyards throughout the valley – from the cool southern Carneros region to the warm and rugged northernmost reaches of the valley near Calistoga. These incredible vineyards give Winemaker Harry Hansen some of the best Napa Valley fruit to select from and allow him to craft unique, intensely flavored and expressive wines..

### VINTAGE

Early season rains brought yields back to normal levels this year, mitigating the extended drought that afflicted most of California. A cool spring resulted in normal timing for bud break, in late March. Temperatures remained cool in May and June, but high temperatures in July triggered an early start to harvest. Quality was solid for the vintage overall. Fruit was harvested between August 24 and September 5, 2017.

### VINEYARDS

The Sterling Vineyards Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc fruit comes principally from a selection of prestigious vineyards throughout the region including Calistoga Ranch, Bear Flats, Larsen Ranch and Tamagni vineyards. Gamble Ranch, mid valley in Oakville, contributes tropical notes of guava and distinct aromas winemakers playfully call an “artful stinkiness” (a good thing). Many of these vineyards are located mostly in the northern and warmer end of the valley, allowing the grapes plenty of sunshine days and warmth to fully ripen and develop intense fruit character. The summer evenings are cool in the Napa Valley and the grapes maintain a high level of acidity which shines in the final bottling. A small amount of wine is aged in neutral oak to add texture to the wine.

### TASTING NOTES

Bracing acidity and distinctive freshness is the hallmark of this vintage, with a crisp backbone and bold flavors of green apple, pear, melon, lime and gooseberries framed with grapefruit and white peaches. Medium-bodied, juicy and pleasantly smooth to drink, the memorable finish lingers a while.



**SOURCING:**  
CALIFORNIA

**VARIETAL COMPOSITION:**  
CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**ANALYSIS:**  
ALC: 13.5%

**ALWAYS POLISHED  
NEVER DULL**

## STERLING VINTNERS COLLECTION 2017 CABERNET SAUVIGNON | CALIFORNIA

Sterling Vineyards wines express true varietal character—that set of aromas and flavors a grape variety develops when grown in the terroir that suits it best. Carefully selected winemaking methods highlight each wine's unique personality and guarantee the high quality that distinguishes our reputation. Sterling Vintner's Collection offers hand-crafted, approachable selections sourced from diverse terroirs and priced to be enjoyed every day.

### VINTAGE

The 2017 growing season was marked by an early harvest with normal yields and exceptional quality. The consistent and smooth growing season followed welcome winter rains that helped ease California's persistent drought. The quality of the fruit coming into the winery at harvest was excellent with grapes reaching optimum ripeness and spectacular concentration of aromas, flavor, and color.

### VINEYARDS

We sourced our grapes from three main appellations on the Central Coast to create our classic California Cabernet Sauvignon. One of our favorite vineyards is in Paso Robles, where large diurnal temperature swings produce big, spicy, berry flavors. From Paicines, which is located in warm San Benito County, we added balance and richness, which comes from the fruit's dark, brambly flavors and ripe tannins. San Lucas Valley, which has steady coastal breezes and slightly cooler overall temperatures, provided the dynamic tannins and ripe, red fruit characters that added the perfect complement to the overall profile.

### WINEMAKING

To achieve the rich varietal expression and approachable fruit profile in our Cabernet Sauvignon, we harvested our fruit at the peak of ripeness, followed by frequent pump-overs throughout fermentation. This constant contact between the skins and juice enables maximum flavor extraction from the fruit. We then aged the wine for approximately 9 months with a combination of American and French oak to lend sweet, toasty vanilla and mocha tones while building structure.

### TASTING NOTES

Combining elegance and approachability, our 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon opens with rich aromas of boysenberry, accented by caramel and mocha spices. The palate is smooth and supple, delivering a balanced expression of plum, blackberry pie, cinnamon, and toffee. Soft, supple, and chocolaty tannins hold the finish, which is long and luxurious. With its bold flavors and an easy accessibility, our Cabernet Sauvignon pairs well with a variety of foods and occasions, from filet mignon to barbecued ribs.



**SOURCING:**  
CALIFORNIA

**VARIETAL COMPOSITION:**  
CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**VINIFICATION:**  
10 MONTHS IN AMERICAN OAK AND FRENCH OAK

**ALWAYS POLISHED  
NEVER DULL**

## 2017 CABERNET SAUVIGNON | CALIFORNIA

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**SOURCING:**  
CALIFORNIA

**VARIETAL COMPOSITION:**  
CHARDONNAY

**ANALYSIS:**  
ALC: 13.5%

**ALWAYS POLISHED  
NEVER DULL**

## STERLING VINTNERS COLLECTION 2017 CHARDONNAY | CALIFORNIA

Sterling Vineyards wines express true varietal character—that set of aromas and flavors a grape variety develops when grown in the terroir that suits it best. Carefully selected winemaking methods highlight each wine's unique personality and guarantee the high quality that distinguishes our reputation. Sterling Vintner's Collection offers hand-crafted, approachable selections sourced from diverse terroirs and priced to be enjoyed every day.

### VINTAGE

2017 was another great vintage throughout California, on par with the previous wonderful 2016 vintage. Warm spring temperatures and even weather throughout the growing season led to an earlier than normal harvest for most of the Napa Valley and other regions throughout the state. California's continued drought led to lower yields in the vineyards but produced fruit of exceptional quality, concentrated fruit flavors and color.

### VINEYARDS

We sourced our Chardonnay from several vineyards along California's Central Coast. Influenced by the nearby Pacific Ocean, these coastal sites have a cool marine influence that allows the fruit to mature slowly for bright, balanced flavors. Our Paris Valley Ranch Vineyard, which is nestled against the foothills of southern Monterey County, produces rich tropical and bright citrus flavors. Warmer daytime temperatures and nighttime cooldowns at our Red Hills Vineyard in Paso Robles result in riper flavors of apricot and melon. The remainder comes from Paicines, a unique region nestled in the Pinnacles mountain range that offers more of the Bartlett pear and baked red apple notes.

### WINEMAKING

The grapes for our Chardonnay were harvested in the cool morning hours. To preserve the fruit character, we maintained these low temperatures for a majority of the fruit through fermentation. We fermented 90% of the juice from these grapes with a combination of French and American oak to support the fruit and add subtle notes of baking spices, and the remaining 10% was fermented without oak. Additional weightiness was achieved with malolactic fermentation and regular lees stirring.

### TASTING NOTES

Irresistibly charming, our 2017 Chardonnay has gracious California style with vibrant fruit and supple texture. Apricot, Bartlett pear and hints of peach and pineapple are layered by lovely pie spices and toasty maple, vanilla notes. The palate is long and round with rich viscosity that comes from malolactic fermentation and the combination of oak aging with lees stirring. Clean, ripe citrus flavors extend the finish and add a refreshing lift to the rich fruit. A go-to Chardonnay, this wine has the perfect poise for any occasion. Pair it with grilled chicken, seafood or light pastas.



**SOURCING:**  
CALIFORNIA

**VARIETAL COMPOSITION:**  
CHARDONNAY

**VINIFICATION:**  
75% BARREL AGED FOR 7 MONTHS  
AMERICAN OAK AND FRENCH OAK

**ALWAYS POLISHED  
NEVER DULL**

## 2017 CHARDONNAY | CALIFORNIA

Sterling Vineyards wines express true varietal character—that set of aromas and flavors a grape variety develops when grown in the terroir that suits it best. Carefully selected winemaking methods highlight each wine's unique personality and guarantee the high quality that distinguishes our reputation. Sterling Vintner's Collection offers hand-crafted, approachable selections sourced from diverse terroirs and priced to be enjoyed every day.

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**SOURCING:**  
CALIFORNIA

**VARIETAL COMPOSITION:**  
SYRAH, TEMPRANILLO,  
ZINFANDEL

**ANALYSIS:**  
ALC: 13.5%

**ALWAYS POLISHED  
NEVER DULL**

## STERLING VINTNER'S COLLECTION 2017 ROSÉ | CALIFORNIA

Sterling Vintner's Collection is synonymous with outstanding wine of the highest quality from some of the finest vineyards and appellations throughout California. This collection of wines expresses distinct character and charm capturing the most virtuous characteristics of each varietal produced. With a diverse and approachable selection, Sterling Vintner's Collection offers unique, delicious, award-winning wines crafted by skillful winemaking hands.

### VINTAGE

The 2017 growing season was marked by an early harvest with normal yields and exceptional quality. The consistent and smooth growing season followed welcome winter rains that helped ease California's persistent drought. The condition of the fruit coming into the winery at harvest was excellent with grapes reaching optimum ripeness and spectacular flavor.

### VINEYARDS

Outstanding vineyard sources are the foundation for this wine. Carefully selected fruit from premier vineyards throughout California allow the winemaker to craft the best expression of each varietal. The Central Coast of California—namely the Edna Valley where the majority of the grapes were sourced for this rosé—offers incredible growing conditions including long, warm, sunny days tempered by cool ocean breezes.

### WINEMAKING

The 2017 Sterling Vintner's Collection Rosé is predominately made from Syrah and Tempranillo grapes from the Edna Valley. The fruit was picked in the cool hours of the early morning, brought to the winery and sent directly to press to preserve fruit flavors and to manage color and tannin extraction. As soon as fermentation was complete the wine was racked and chilled to maintain the bright fruit characteristics and crisp acidity.

### TASTING NOTES

The Sterling Vintner's Collection Rosé is a luminous light-pink color in the glass with lifted aromas of strawberry, freshly picked summer berries and a subtle perfumed floral note. The elegant palate offers a richness that is balanced by a good line of bright acidity and flavors of pink citrus, jasmine tea and orange blossom. This rosé should be enjoyed in its youth, on its own, or alongside a variety of foods including fresh oysters, scallops, grilled chicken or even charcuterie.