

## Montagu - Silver Ghost Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley

- A pedigreed Napa Cabernet for an accessible price
- Sourced from prime Napa Valley vineyards, with barrel fermentation (a la Harlan and Colgin) and new oak aging
- Named in honor of Winemaker Weston Eidson's great grandfather, who helped launch the Silver Ghost Rolls Royce

### The Producer

Especially when it comes to Napa Cabernet, it's hard to find wines that offer both pedigree and value. Winemaker Weston Eidson has accomplished that rare feat with his Silver Ghost Napa Cabernet—a wine that demonstrates inside and out his devotion to quality, great taste and entrepreneurial talent. Perhaps it runs in the family: with the name “Silver Ghost”, Weston pays tribute to his great grandfather, British Lord John Montagu, who helped to launch the 1909 Silver Ghost Rolls Royce. Weston's twist on this family history? While not everyone can drive a Rolls, Weston's Silver Ghost Cab is accessibly priced.

Weston grew up around fine wine; his family valued its presence in get-togethers and celebrations. While in the UK attending graduate school in International Political Economy, he traveled the globe visiting as many wine regions as he could from Chile and South Africa to Bordeaux and the Veneto. A pivotal moment came during his visit to the famous Trimbach Estate in Alsace with Jean Trimbach himself. While walking its vineyards near the ancient village of Ribeauvillé, Eidson was struck by how wine lies at the intersection of tradition and innovation as well as imagination and restraint. That moment proved indelible.

Weston's travels soon took him to Napa and as they say, when the student is ready, the teacher will appear. During his trip he met Jason Moore of Modus Operandi and was invited to work the 2012 harvest under Jason's guidance.

Weston proved a natural, quickly becoming adept at identifying ideal ripeness at harvest, tasting nuances in a wine's progression of fermentation levels, and distinguishing the implications of different aging regimens. He also gained conviction about making wine with minimal intervention: allow the fruit to make beautiful wine, naturally reflecting distinctive terroir.

Weston soon developed relationships with veterans of Napa and Sonoma, including the Bacigalupis and Steve Matthiasson. With access to some of Napa's most esteemed talent and the best vineyards, he embarked on his vision to produce Silver Ghost.

With quality and balance as his goal, Weston sources fruit for Silver Ghost from some of the finest vineyards in Napa, combining lush valley floor fruit with high-elevation grapes that lend structure to the wine. In the winery Weston ferments 25% of the fruit in barrel to soften tannins—a practice common among higher priced Cabernets such as those from Colgin, Harlan, and Calluna—and the other 75% in stainless steel to retain the purity of fruit. The wine is then aged 24 months in French Oak, 50% of which is new—another quality measure that often comes in wines with a higher price tag.

### The Wine

Weston Eidson's Silver Ghost is an approachable Napa Valley Cabernet that is built for aging but doesn't require it. The fruit comes exclusively from highly regarded sites. One third comes from a heritage Rutherford vineyard where famous neighbors include Schrader and Alpha Omega. The other two thirds come from mountain sites near Calistoga and Pope Valley, which offer higher altitudes and well draining soils. The presence of clone 7 lends a classic and pretty character to the wine while clone 337 gives a lush texture with opulent, fine-grained tannins. Luxury balanced with accessibility: this is the beauty of the Silver Ghost Napa Valley Cabernet.



**Appellation:** Napa Valley

**Vineyards:**

- Rutherford: Valley floor, alluvial soils
- Calistoga: 350' elevation; volcanic, rocky loam
- Yountville: Valley floor, gravelly silt loam, stony soil

**Vine age:** Average 20 years

**Varietals:** 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% PV and Cabernet Franc

**Farming:** Sustainable

**Vinification:** Minimal intervention winemaking; blended before bottling; no fining

**Aging:** 22 months in French oak barrels (50% new)

**Tasting Notes:** Complex, dark fruit aromas of black cherry, blueberry, and cassis burst from the glass along with toast, smoked herbs, and coffee. On the palate, this wine reveals phenomenal purity and opulent fruit with lush and well-integrated tannins supporting a rich texture and depth that continue through the long finish.