

2016 Cabernet Sauvignon

Windsor Oaks Vineyard, Chalk Hill

Vineyard

William Knuttel's introduction to Windsor Oaks Vineyard was during his tenure as Winemaker/VP at Chalk Hill Estate. The property was formerly Balverne Winery (complete with a prohibition speakeasy!), and Vineyard Manager Douglas Lungair re-developed it during the 1990s and has been working with William Knuttel since those Chalk Hill days. The vineyards are quintessentially Chalk Hill: hillside plantings on well-drained, gravelly, clay-loam soils, and open exposure to brisk Russian River Valley breezes which temper our block of Cabernet Sauvignon on its south facing slope.

Winemaking

Our entire block of Windsor Oaks Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon was hand harvested on September 27th, 2016, after a warm and steady growing season ripened the crop relatively early for this block of Cabernet. For this single vineyard bottling, the ripest and most flavorful section of the vineyard was crushed separately into one-ton fermenters. Native fermentation began spontaneously after three days of a cold soak. The cap was punched down three times per day through the end of fermentation, and then pressed off immediately. The free run portion was racked to French oak for twenty months of aging, at which time eight barrels (four new and four 2-year-old) were selected for this bottling. The wine was bottled unfinned in June 2018.

Tasting Notes

Aromas of blackberry, black cherry, and spiced tea rise unabated from this inky black wine. A well-integrated backbone of velvety tannins and toasty oak highlights cherry and cassis flavors, leading to concentrated fruit in a seamless and assertive finish. Alcohol 14.8%

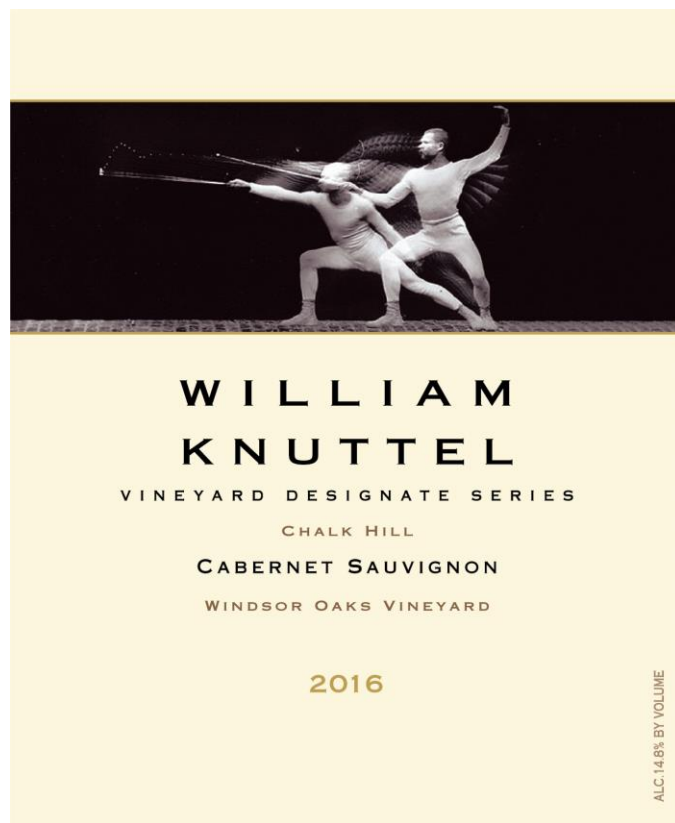
YIELD: 2.2 tons/acre

AGING: 20 months in French oak, 50% new, 50% 2 year-old

COOPERAGE: Tonnelleries O, Kadar (Taransaud)

TA/pH: 5.6 g/L & 3.78

CASES: 175 (12 x 750ml)



William Knuttel was formerly Winemaker & Vice President with Chalk Hill Estate from 1996 to 2003, specializing in ultra-premium Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, & Sauvignon Blanc, and Dry Creek Vineyard's Executive Winemaker from 2003 to 2011. As proprietor of Tria, 1995 to 2003, he produced fine Pinot Noir and Zinfandel. As Saintsbury's winemaker from 1983 to 1996, Knuttel established that brand as a leader in ultra-premium Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

ABOUT THE LABEL ART:

Designer Jeffrey Caldewey captured William Knuttel's kinetic wine world with Etienne-Jules Marey's 1890 "chronophotograph," in which multiple exposures are superimposed to show the complete motion of "le coup d'épee." The image metaphorically highlights the balance, finesse, power and poise valued by the wine-maker.