

Dana Estates 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Helms Vineyard, Rutherford

Dana's 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Helms Vineyard possesses remarkable structure and density, especially within the context of the year. Firm yet well-integrated tannins give the wine much of its energy, tension and focus. Black cherry jam, graphite, smoke and tobacco add nuance as the wine opens up in the glass. Far from an easygoing 2012, the Helms is going to need time to fully come together. There is so much to look forward to here. This is the first vintage since 2008 that was vinified in wood uprights, as was originally intended. The intervening vintages have been much shorter, so they were done in barrel. The 2012 impresses for its balance of fruit, acidity and tannin.

Drinking window: 2018-2032

96

Antonio Galloni, December 2014

Dana Estates 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Lotus Vineyard, Napa Valley

The 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Lotus Vineyard is a bit more direct and focused than the Hershey Vineyard tasted alongside it. Iron, herbs and a host of ferrous notes provide the underpinning for a core of distinctly red-fleshed fruit. Veins of acidity and tannin give the wine its somewhat linear personality for the year.

Drinking window: 2018-2032

96

Antonio Galloni, October 2015

Dana Estates 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Hershey Vineyard, Howell Mountain

The 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Hershey Vineyard has developed into a round, sumptuous Howell Mountain wine with the soft contours and exceptional overall balance. Iron, sweet red cherry, plum, smoke and licorice meld together in an open-knit yet structured Cabernet Sauvignon with tons of sheer appeal. The exotic, savory/mineral bouquet is pure Howell, but there is also a softness to the 2012 that makes it incredibly appealing, even today. A final kick of Howell Mountain tannin lingers on the close. As always, the Hershey is the most vivid and structured of the Dana Cabernets.

Drinking window: 2018-2032

98

Antonio Galloni, October 2015