

Dana Estates 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Helms Vineyard

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

The 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Lotus Vineyard is the ripest and most voluptuous of these wines. Silky tannins and soft fruit convey an impression of total seamlessness. Dark red cherry, plum, crushed flowers and rose petals build in the glass as the Lotus shows off its racy personality. There is a sense of immediacy here that is impossible to miss. I imagine the 2012 will offer a long and wide window of drinking pleasure.

Drinking window: 2018-2032

(94-97)

Antonio Galloni, December 2014

Dana Estates 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Hershey Vineyard

Graphite, smoke, dark spices, gravel and blue/purplish fruit emerge from the 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Hershey Vineyards, Dana's Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon. The flavors are wonderfully vibrant and alive in the glass. A host of spice, menthol, pine and crushed rocks add nuance on the powerful, driving finish. The 2012 Hershey is shaping up to be gorgeous. Tasted from barrel in October 2014, it appears to have a very bright future. This is the first year the See Clone has entered the blend.

Drinking window: 2018-2032

(95-98)

Antonio Galloni, December 2014