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Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

2016 Dana Estates Cabernet Sauvignon Helms Vineyard, Rutherford

Wine Advocate (Sep 2019)

Drink: 2021 – 2048

Rating: 97

The 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Helms Vineyard was fermented 40% in barrels and 60% in oak tanks and spent 35 days on the skins. It aged for 20 months in French oak barrels and has a deep garnet-purple color. Wow—it comes charging out of the glass with beautifully bullish black cherries, crème de cassis, blackberry pie and raspberry preserves notes followed by hints of cigar box, Indian spices and licorice with a waft of dried herbs. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is jam-packed with expressive black berry preserves, framed by soft, velvety tannins and seamless freshness, finishing long and multilayered.

Lisa Perotti-Brown, Robert Parker (September 2019)

2016 Dana Estates Cabernet Sauvignon Lotus Vineyard, Napa Valley

Wine Advocate (Sep 2019)

Drink: 2021 – 2052

Rating: 99

The 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Lotus Vineyard is made up of 97% Cabernet Sauvignon (clones 4 and 15) and 3% Petit Verdot. It fermented 46% in oak tanks, 38% in concrete and 16% in barrels. It was on the skins for 28 to 43 days and aged in French oak barrels for 27 months. Deep garnet-purple in color, it is a little shy to begin, before opening up with provocative lilacs, cinnamon stick, cloves and underbrush over a core of blackcurrant cordial, preserved plums and Black Forest cake plus a waft of cast-iron pan. Full-bodied, the palate is an exercise in grace, with wonderfully harmonious perfumed black fruit framed by very fine-grained tannins and bags of freshness, finishing very long.

Lisa Perotti-Brown, Robert Parker (September 2019)

2016 Dana Estates Cabernet Sauvignon Hershey Vineyard, Howell Mountain

Wine Advocate (Sep 2019)

Drink: 2021-2050

Rating: 98

The 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Hershey Vineyard fermented 77% in oak tanks, 16% in barrels and 7% in concrete. It spent 21 to 33 days on the skins and aged 27 months in French oak barrels. Deep garnet-purple in color, it delivers very serious, classic cassis, cedar chest, pencil shavings and warm plums notes with nuances of lavender, dark chocolate, tobacco and crushed rocks with a waft of black olives. Full-bodied, the palate is solidly structured with firm, chunky tannins and bold freshness supporting the densely packed, muscular fruit, finishing long and mineral-laced.

Lisa Perotti-Brown, Robert Parker (September 2019)

2016 Dana Estates Cabernet Sauvignon Onda, Napa Valley

Wine Advocate (Sep 2019)

Drink: 2020 – 2035

Rating: 94

This is a blend of all four of the estate vineyards and includes a vineyard planted in 1967, just below the Lotus vineyard. Blended of 95% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Merlot and 1% Petit Verdot, the 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Onda fermented 60% in concrete tanks, 30% in oak tanks, 7% in barrels and 3% in stainless steel. It spent 21 to 34 days on the skins and aged for 20 months in French oak barrels. Deep garnet-purple in color, it struts out of the glass with flamboyant baked cherries, warm blackcurrants, spice cake and potpourri with hints of menthol, chocolate box and a waft of forest floor. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is vibrant, juicy and open for business with a plush frame and lively lift to the finish.

Lisa Perotti-Brown, Robert Parker (September 2019)