

# PUNCH

VINEYARDS



## CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2011

*81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 4% other red varieties.*

*Primarily Spring Mountain with 6 barrels of Mount Veeder and a small amount of Sonoma County.*

*Alcohol 14.5%; Residual Sugar 0.30%; Titratable Acidity 6.3g/L; pH 3.70*

*1,098 cases made. Special thanks to winemaker Miguel Caratachea.*

Hail in *May* and pelting rain in *June* knocked off half the baby berries in some vineyards – from then on every grape was precious. Which heightened our anxiety over the worryingly cool summer. Autumn rains were late, allowing time for the grapes to ripen at last. Miguel used “cult winery” techniques – rack-and-return, nineteen months in French oak barrels topped every three weeks, and other barrel-by-barrel tuning – to attain Punch’s “melt in your mouth” texture. Critics waver about vintage 2011, but we’re very pleased with Punch. Mostly from Spring Mountain, with six herbal-black cherry barrels of Mount Veeder and a bright Sonoma County lot that makes the wine “twinkle” on the palate. Drink now or cellar 8-plus years.

### BY INSIDERS, FOR INSIDERS

Punch Cabernet Sauvignon is made by a small group of Napa Valley artisans from prestigious vintners whose careers have been built making top-rated wines that we can’t afford for ourselves. One day we said, “Why not use our know-how to make a great wine that is within *our* mere mortal means.” The ‘who’s who’ of some of our group and where they work must remain a trade secret. Our icon is Punch, the California grizzly. He’s a bighearted insider with a knack for nosing out the best fruit – an uncanny sense of taste.

### DISTINCT STYLE: CLASSIC RICHNESS, VELVETY FINISH

Punch Vineyards has all the hallmarks of luxury Cabernet Sauvignons that sell for much higher prices: deep concentration, complex black cherry, blackberry, and other classic flavors, and firm structure. We strive for rich Cabernet Sauvignon character but a velvety texture akin to that of Pinot Noir. It took years to secure sources to do this at an affordable price, but our motto – *Mereto* – means, “You have to earn it.”

### THE FIRST “SUPER-CALIFORNIAN” – HILLSIDE VINEYARDS

We choose hillside vineyards because slope lowers yields and forces the grapes to build character. We pick up extra lots from our colleagues’ wineries, home vineyards, and other insider locations in Napa Valley and Sonoma. So don’t be fooled by the California appellation on our label. We’re betting that Punch quality speaks for itself and that our customers won’t miss an expensive appellation address – or price.

### PUNCH PEOPLE

Miguel Caratachea has made many highly rated wines for others without getting credit, so we’re pleased to put his name on our back label. Consulting winemaker Steve Lagier and his wife Carole Meredith own Lagier-Meredith, a boutique winery on Mount Veeder in Napa Valley. Proprietor Lee Nordlund was born in Berkeley and worked at Beringer, Robert Mondavi Winery, Franciscan and Mount Veeder Winery.