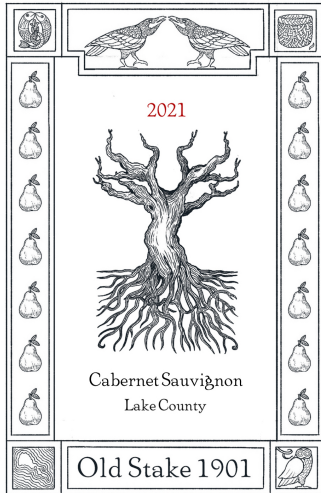


# Dancing Crow Vineyards - Old Stake 1901

## 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon – Lake County

### Winemaker Sensory Impressions

On the nose, the Old Stake 1901 Cabernet highlights aromas of dark plum, raspberry and cocoa, which lead into succulent flavors of black cherry, and ripe fig, while hinting of Assam tea, cedar and savory fresh herbs, with a note of Basque saucisson on a smooth, sustained finish.



### The Growing Season

The 2021 Lake County harvest is boasting excellent quality and intensity of flavors in the reds; showcasing what we feel is exceptional potential in our Old Stake 1901 Cabernet. Early season growing conditions within the high-elevation vineyards, prompted bud break a week earlier than average. While our fruit set was slightly decreased, the loose clusters facilitated airflow and steady ripening, with the grapes demonstrating wonderfully complex and concentrated flavor profiles. Generally, in Lake County we see a short break between the harvest of white and red varieties, however, this year reds followed immediately after whites due to the late summer heat. Harvest dates were September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Winemaking

Our goal is to create a sumptuous Bordeaux-style Cabernet with refined structure, yet a hint of uplifting brightness. This wine consists of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon co-fermented with 24% Merlot to develop complexity. Picking was a combination of nighttime hand and machine harvesting, to retain freshness, while utilizing a relatively cool fermentation to boost the fruit and floral traits. The addition of Big Valley AVA Merlot imparts a softening freshness to balance out the density and tannins of the Cabernet. We conducted ML with French and Hungarian oak to foster integration, with a particular focus on producing a wine that expresses a lively elegance.

### The Land

Grapevines have graced the deep red, iron-rich soils of our Old Stake 1901 property in the Kelsey Bench AVA for over a century. The terroir of this vineyard is ideal for Cabernet with its elevation, volcanic deposits, and cool afternoon winds. The Kelsey Bench AVA in Lake County was originally a pyroclastic flow from over ten thousand years ago, and is a transition point between the volcanic Mayacamas Mountains to the west and the alluvial flood plain of the Clear Lake basin to the east. The soils in the vineyard reflect this transition, offering mildly rocky, red volcanic elements mixed with alluvial loams. The vineyards sit between 1,350 and 1,450 ft., and this elevation, along with the cooling effects of the lake and nearby mountains, create 50°F diurnal temperature swings, that produce wine of excellent acidity, ideal tannin structure and bold, complex fruit characteristics.

**Varietals:**

76% Cabernet Sauvignon

24% Merlot

**pH:** 4.0

**Alcohol:** 14.0%

**Appellations:** Lake County: Kelsey Bench & Big Valley AVAs

**Elevation:** 1350 - 1475 ft.

**Soils:** Volcanic/Alluvial

**Agging:** 6 months French Oak & Hungarian Oak

**T/A:** 5.5

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