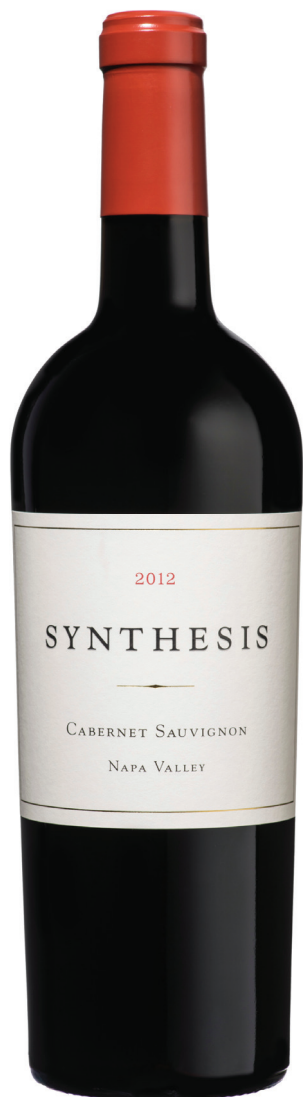




# Martin Ray

VINEYARDS AND WINERY

RESERVE



## 2012 "SYNTHESIS" NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

### THE VINEYARDS

Our Synthesis Cabernet Sauvignon is the ideal culmination of our favorite vineyards throughout the Napa Valley. Drawing from the silky red fruit of our Stags Leap District and Rutherford vineyards, as well as the stout, brooding tannins derived from Diamond Mountain's rocky volcanic soil, this wine is the perfect marriage of the contrasting styles. Synthesis, in essence, flaunts the finest characteristics from each of its diverse origins.

### VINTAGE NOTES

The 2012 vintage was widely acclaimed as one of the most ideal growing seasons over the last decade. Consistently moderate weather throughout the season yielded balanced chemistry in the grapes and a bountiful crop. Good fruit set in the spring resulted in heavy crops (30-50% more than the previous year), so more thinning was required in some of our vineyards. The clusters were heavy, but the berries were surprisingly small, which produced concentrated flavors and aromas.

### WINEMAKING NOTES

Our Synthesis is, quite literally, the best of the best. We hand-picked the best of the barrel lots from our favorite vineyards to make this expressive wine. We fermented the grapes in small 5 ton open top fermentation tanks for two weeks with pumpovers for cap management, then aged it for eighteen months in 60% new French oak barrels.

### TASTING NOTES

True to its origins, the Synthesis has a complex bouquet of dried baking herbs and bold red and purple fruits along the lines of Maraschino cherries, figs and spiced baked plums. The Bordeaux blenders add a complementary hint of blueberries and toasted marshmallows. The Synthesis Cabernet Sauvignon blend is a beautiful compromise between the softer, more readily approachable structure of Napa's valley floor fruit, and the large chewy tannins that define Napa's mountain appellations.

### FOOD & WINE PAIRING

Pair with braised short ribs with horseradish gremolata.

94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot, 3% Malbec  
60% Stags Leap District, 30% Diamond Mountain  
District, 10% Rutherford - 100% Napa Valley  
Brix at Harvest 26.5°  
pH 3.82  
Total Acidity 6.1 g/L  
Alcohol 14.8%  
November 2014 Release