

# IRONSTONE

Vineyards

## 2016 Reserve Cabernet Franc Sierra Foothills ~ Estate Grown



In 1926, the Kautz family began farming in the Lodi region and in 1948, John Kautz Farms was founded. In 1990, after many successful years of growing wine grapes, the family completed the Ironstone Winery. The Ironstone Winery is a modern replica of an 1859 Gold Stamp Mill complete with tasting room, gourmet delicatessen, wine aging cavern, conference and wedding facilities, outdoor Amphitheatre, and 14.5 acres of landscaped gardens. The Heritage Museum and Jewelry Shoppe contains artifacts from the gold rush era, as well as the largest specimen of Crystalline Gold Leaf – a 44 lb. treasure. The family philosophy of winemaking is that quality wine grapes, a touch of artistry and patience create captivating elegant wines.

**The Vineyards:** Located at 2400 ft. above sea level, these grapes were estate-grown at our Hay Station Ranch vineyard where warm days are cooled by the evening mountain air. This area's unique soil of decomposed granite mixed with volcanic sediment and red clay produce a wonderful mineral component. Grapes have been grown in the Sierra Foothills for 150 years.

**Sustainable Viticultural Practices:** At Ironstone, the vineyard manager, has at his disposal, a variety of sound, ecological vineyard practices which can be employed depending on what Mother Nature delivers during the growing season. We use crop reduction, leaf removal, organic materials, and drip irrigation to improve the quality and intensity of flavors. Cover crops, which attract beneficial insects, are also employed. In addition, we place owl and wood duck boxes around the vineyards and ponds helping to preserve the surrounding habitats.

**Winemaking Processes:** These fully mature grapes were picked at their peak and delivered to the winery after being selected by our winemaker. After undergoing extended fermentation and maceration, the wine was transferred into small oak barrels and placed into our underground caverns to ensure a fuller, richer, finer wine of true varietal character. Hand blasted by local miners, many whose families came for gold in the 1800's, these caverns remain a natural 60 degrees Fahrenheit year-round temperature which slowly lowers the wine's alcohol while preserving its concentration of flavor.

**Our Winemaker's Notes:** The Reserve 2016 Cabernet Franc is an elegant, rich yet soft wine. With fleshy black cherry, blackberry and spicy oak aromas this seductive Cabernet Franc is worth drinking now or cellaring for a special occasion. Succulent, dark fruit flavors of plum, black cherry with a hint of sweet oak fills the palate and gives way to a smooth, medium finish.

**Chef Recommends:** Cabernet Franc is a surprising wine that pairs well with both light and hearty dishes. It's an excellent choice for chicken Marsala, roasted pork with apple stuffing and roasted or grilled red meats. It can also be a great starter with a salad of sliced Anjou pears with roasted walnuts and blue cheese crumbles.

### Awards:

Wine Enthusiast, May 2017 91 Points, Cellar Selection (v. 2013)

California State Fair Comp., Jun 2016 91 Points (v. 2011)

[www.ironstonevineyards.com](http://www.ironstonevineyards.com)

Appellation: Sierra Foothills

Sub-AVA: Calaveras County

Production: 1,920 cases/6

Blend: 85% Cabernet Franc, 8% Petite Sirah, 4% Zinfandel, 3% Cabernet Sauvignon

UPC: 7 24826 02125 3

Released: January 2018

Aging: 24 months in small French & American oak Barrels

Alcohol: 14.5%,

pH: 3.90

TA: 5.6 g/L

RS: 3.0 g/L