

2009 Sequoia Grove Cabernet Sauvignon

Napa Valley AVA, California



Rutherford is slightly northwest of the heart of Napa Valley and is a touch warmer than some of its neighboring areas like St. Helena to the north and Oakville to the south. It is a benchland area surrounded by Napa's famous mountains beginning with Howell Mountain to the north, and then (going clockwise on a map) Atlas Peak to the east, Mount Veeder to the south, and Spring Mountain to the northwest.

In an area known for its gravelly, sandy dust, Sequoia Grove has composed a wine. After reaching cult status in the late 80's, their vineyards were wiped out by pestilence (phylloxera) and economic pressure began to take its toll. It has taken the business and the wines the 20 years since honestly be on track to recovering their former glory. Nevertheless, this is a conservative wine built not for over-ripeness but for balance and structure with a seamless, long finish.

Aromas of fresh raspberries and ripe cherries with notes of vanilla and cocoa powder; also a touch of roasted coffee bean and graphite that comes through in the background. The palate is smooth and rich with flavors of blackberry, a hint of smoky, sweet oak and ripe tannins giving the wine a full arc in the mouth.

“Complete and easy to enjoy, with fresh earth, crushed rock, dried berry and a dash of licorice and sage.” – 87 Points, *Wine Spectator*

Recommended pairings:

Iceberg Wedge Salad

- AND -

Grilled NY Sirloin with Mashed Potato and Sauteed Greens