



## PREFERRED PALATES

A FLORA SPRINGS WINE CLUB

I often wonder what James and John Rennie would say if they saw Flora Springs today. As you might know, the two Scottish brothers established a winery on this property in 1885, erecting a stone cellar, planting 60 acres of wine grapes and even installing one of Napa Valley's first gasoline-powered presses. If I could time travel I'd go right back to this spot in the early 1890's – after the brothers had a few vintages in the bottle so I could have a taste of their wine!

Our Rennie Reserve Cabernet – always one of our finest wines – pays tribute to these Napa Valley wine pioneers. And if you visit The Room, ask about the hand-painted wall mural by artist Carlo Marchiori. Look closely and you'll see the Rennie brothers standing at the doorway to the old stone cellar. I like to think they're surveying the wine estate they established so long ago with immense satisfaction.



DECEMBER 2014

## THE HEART OF THE NAPA VALLEY: ST. HELENA

One of Napa Valley's most historical wine regions, the St. Helena AVA is often described as occupying the "heart" of the Napa Valley. The appellation surrounds and runs through the town of St. Helena, a small but thriving metropolis with approximately 5000 residents, and some of its most famous vineyards – and even wineries – can be found among the city's residential neighborhoods. And though the St. Helena AVA wasn't officially established until 1995, the appellation was home to some of Napa Valley's earliest and most successful growers and vintners.

"The history of St. Helena is really the history of Napa Valley," says Proprietor John Komes. "You've got names like Charles Krug and the Beringer brothers – early Napa Valley wine pioneers who came here in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century; they knew this area had the potential to be a premier grape growing region."

Located just north of the Rutherford AVA where the Napa Valley floor is at its narrowest, St. Helena is protected by the Mayacamas Mountains which rise just to the west. The appellation is slightly warmer than neighboring AVAs to the south, with somewhat less fog and wind influence. During the growing season the days are generally sunny and warm, but in the evenings temperatures can dip as much as 30 to 40 degrees.

"St. Helena presents the classic Mediterranean climate," states Vineyard Director Pat Garvey. "Its warmth relative to southern parts of Napa Valley such as Carneros makes it the ideal place to grow red grapes, particularly Cabernet Sauvignon."

The soils of the St. Helena appellation are also well suited to wine grapes. Located on a vast,

sloping alluvial plain, the AVA's well-drained soils range from gravelly-clay to volcanic, with low to moderate fertility. Vines have to reach deep into these soils for moisture, producing relatively low yields of intense and concentrated fruit.

"St. Helena Cabs tend to have delicious jammy fruit flavors," says Pat, who has farmed Rennie Reserve Vineyard in St. Helena for over 30 years. "But if you farm properly and harvest at the right moment, you also get firm tannins and great acidity that allows for long aging. It's the best of both worlds."





## 2011 RENNIE RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON TASTING NOTES

Our Rennie Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon stems from thirty years of farming and experimentation with a small, three-acre block on the Flora Springs Estate in the southwest corner of the St. Helena appellation. With a precision watering and stress regimen in place, perfectly matched clone to soil selection, and proper row orientation, this block is arguably the best of our 650 acres of vineyard. We simply call it Block C. For a long time Block C was an integral component of Trilogy, but in 1997 we selected fruit from this block for Flora Springs' 20th Anniversary wine. Ever since we have used a percentage of Block C to create our Rennie Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon. The 2011 Rennie Reserve is rich and muscular, with big black cherry, cassis and mulberry fruit along with hints of cocoa powder, slate and a hint of gentle eucalyptus. Full-bodied with hefty tannins, this is a glorious Napa Cab with a long, luxurious finish.

### CELLAR FACTS

**Appellation:** St. Helena, Napa Valley

**Composition:** 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

**Cases:** 360

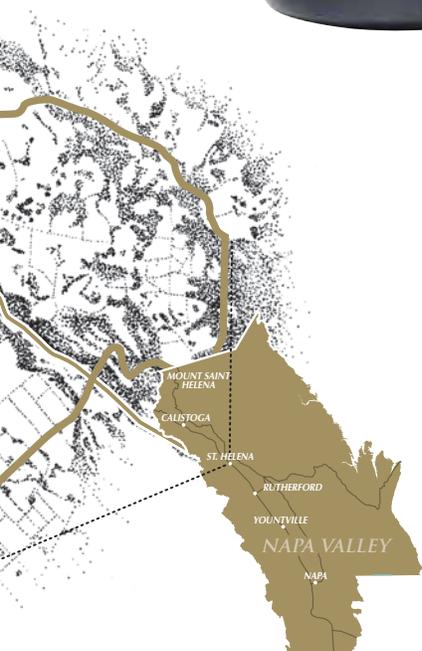
**Aging:** 23 months; 80% new French oak;  
20% one year old French oak

**Enjoyability:** Drink now or cellar. Pull the cork  
until 2022 for optimum enjoyment.

### PRICING & REORDER

Price **\$125** | Shipment **\$112.50** | Reorder **\$100**

TO PLACE YOUR ORDER PLEASE CONTACT WINE CLUB MANAGER  
KENNY WERLE AT (800) 913-1118 OR [INFO@FLORASPRINGS.COM](mailto:INFO@FLORASPRINGS.COM)





## HARVEST 2014: EARLY AND EXCELLENT

Harvest 2014 is officially a wrap, and with wines now finishing out their fermentations in the cellar we're thrilled to report that Mother Nature delivered an excellent vintage in Napa Valley. Heavy rains just before the spring bud break rendered the drought a non-issue here, and even the August 24<sup>th</sup> earthquake and a freak hailstorm in September had no effect on the quality of the harvest. "We had a warm spring which pushed the growing season up by about two weeks," reports Winemaker Paul Steinhauer, who said the winery brought in its last grapes in mid-October. "And despite the bizarre "natural" events that occurred during harvest, the picking and processing of the grapes couldn't have been smoother. As for quality, everything we brought in was terrific!"

## HOLIDAY CABS ARE HERE!

If you're looking for the perfect gift for the wine lover in your life, check out Flora Springs Holiday Cabs. We only make a few of these, because each and every bottle is painstakingly hand-etched and painted. This year we have five designs: *Flora's Ornament* (inspired by a vintage Christmas card we found in Flora's attic), *Santa's Sleigh*, *Peaceful Trees*, *Happy Hanukkah* and *Feliz Navidad*. Check them out at [www.florasprings.com](http://www.florasprings.com)!



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