



2012 MERLOT “AUX RAYNAUDS”

Primarily sourced from the tiny block of Merlot dedicated to Alain Raynaud and his family of Bordeaux, Doctor Raynaud taught David Jeffrey much of what he knows of the wines of Bordeaux when he worked at Chateau Quinault in St. Emilion. In return, Calluna offers *Aux Raynauds* as a wine inspired by that region.

This vineyard sits on an essentially flat plateau near the top of the property with a significant element of clay — this is the soil type in which Merlot thrives.

Varietal Breakdown:

95% Merlot
5% Cabernet Franc

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Appellation
Chalk Hill

Cooperage
21 months in 100% French oak barrels, 0% new

Harvest dates
Merlot Raynauds: September 22, 2012
Cabernet Franc: October 7, 2012

pH
3.62

Winemaking
Hand-harvested, manually sorted and fermented in a traditional Bordelaise style in open-top tanks with temperature control. Bottled unfiltered.

Alcohol
13.4%

Production
100 cases

Release date
March 2015

Vintage

The 2012 vintage on the North Coast of California is widely heralded as the first of what is now a trio of excellent growing seasons. After two very cool years which included some untimely rain, 2012 was a return to normalcy to the great relief of stressed vineyard managers. A relatively large crop set in near perfect weather and then went on to ripen through dry, warm days without detrimental heat spikes.

At Calluna, 2012 started less stressed because the 2010 and 2011 vintages were successful and acclaimed wines. Our approach in the vineyard — less water, less fertilizer, more sun exposure to clusters through non-vigorous canopies — and our cooler climate combine to allow us to get our fruit fully ripe, even in those more difficult years. But 2012 is indeed a step up. Not only have the vines reached maturity but there is an additional density of fruit character that allows greater balance within the structure of the wine.

ABOUT CALLUNA VINEYARDS

Calluna Vineyards took root in Sonoma County in 2005 with 12-acres in the Chalk Hill appellation planted to the traditional Bordeaux grape varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Malbec. From its advantageous hillsides overlooking the Russian River Valley, Chalk Hill is known for its mild climate and soils of clay underlain with fractured shale and sandstone.

DAVID A. JEFFREY, *Winemaker and Founder*

After 20 years of studying and collecting the wines of Bordeaux and California, David moved to the West Coast and enrolled in Fresno State's Enology program in 2001. Determined to make his dream a reality, David spent 3½ years studying winemaking and grape growing as he completed his degree and worked at Chateau Quinault in Bordeaux, France.