

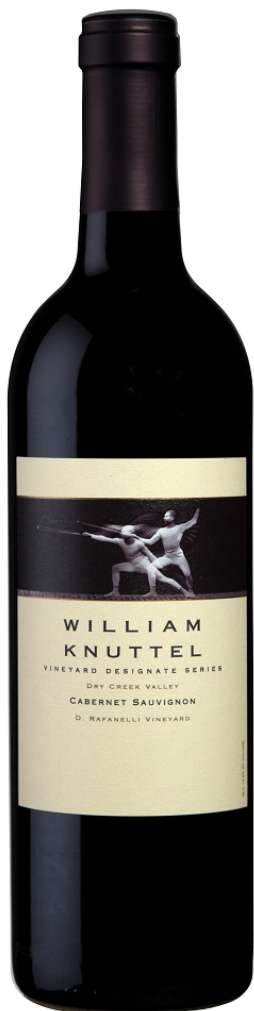


# WILLIAM KNUTTEL

William Knuttel's winemaking journey began at Saintsbury, where he was winemaker from 1983 to 1996 and established that brand as an international leader in high-end Pinot Noir and Chardonnay in the Burgundian style. William Knuttel was also Vice President and Winemaker at Chalk Hill Winery from 1996 to 2003, specializing in ultra-premium Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Gris. From 2003 to 2011 Knuttel was Executive Winemaker at Dry Creek Vineyard, where he completely re-honed the styles and quality of that winery's extensive portfolio. Knuttel was also ZAP's winemaker in 2005, producing their Heritage Zinfandel, and President of the California Cabernet Society from 1999-2003.



## 2017 CABERNET SAUVIGNON "D. RAFANELLI VINEYARD" DRY CREEK VALLEY, SONOMA



Doug Rafanelli grows Cabernet Sauvignon in a patchwork of vineyards dotting rugged hillsides on the west side of Dry Creek Valley. Labeling the soils there as "marginal" would be doing them a favor, as the vines struggle to support even 2 tons per acre in a good year. This bottling was blended from two low yielding blocks, Terraces and Mary's, lying on south-facing slopes above the big bend on West Dry Creek Road, near Lambert Bridge. The southern exposure on thin, well-drained, gravelly soils accelerates ripening, and these blocks of Cab are always first into the winery. Our Cabernet Sauvignon was painstakingly harvested by hand, its miniscule clusters and berries not even punching in at one and half tons to the acre. For this bottling, areas of the vineyard were isolated and separately crushed into one-ton fermenters. After 3 days of cold soak, a native fermentation began with wild yeasts. The cap was punched down three times per day through to the end of fermentation, and then pressed off immediately. The free run was racked to French oak for 22 months of aging, at which time 8 barrels (four new and four 2-year-old) were selected for this single vineyard bottling. The wine was bottled unfinned. This 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon features aromas of ripe blackberry, plum and blueberry, and hints of earth and dried flowers. Oak and toast mesh completely into the flavors. The wine's color is dense, and flavors of ripe berry and cherry ride a wave of firm but resolved tannins. While built for aging, this wine can be enjoyed now with heartier meals. Only 130 cases were produced.