



GAGNON-KENNEDY

# SAMUEL BRANNAN 2021

**Appellation:**

Calistoga,  
Napa Valley

**Alcohol:**

14.9%

**Production:**

5 barrels, 120 cases

**Variety:**

100% Cabernet  
Sauvignon

**Vineyard Selection:**

Sam Brannan  
Soil: Gravelly Loam

**Oak Treatment:**

60% New French Oak

**Notes:**

The Samuel Brannan Vineyard could be one of the oldest vineyard sites in all of Napa Valley, dating back to its original planting by the founder of Calistoga in 1862, Samuel Brannan. The site sits in the north-easternmost base of the Vaca Mountain range tucked in a bowl of mountain slope on the valley floor. This site produces vibrant and bright Cabernet Sauvignon and continues to amaze with its lightness, given that it comes from Calistoga, a region not typically known for elegance. Although replanted roughly 20 years ago, the site is an obvious grand-cru setting and, in 2021, produced a stunning representation of Cabernet - elegant, bright, graceful and varietally pure.

*Vintage Summary:* The 2021 Vintage can be classified as a severe drought year here in Napa Valley (and throughout California). With only 7.3" of rain from January to March, bud break was early, and bloom had higher stress than typical - leading to a smaller crop. Currently, I'm drawing comparisons in the cellar to the 2015 vintage, but with much less heat towards the end of the growing season, helping retain freshness and varietal expression and individuality. I'm also finding similarities to the 2013 vintage, one of the most exceptional vintages in history, and I foresee the 2021 vintage to be known for its structure, precision, and long-term age-ability. -Marc Gagnon, Winemaker

