

# CELLAR MASTER WINE CLUB

September 2023

## 2016 Volker Eisele Cabernet

Napa Valley, California

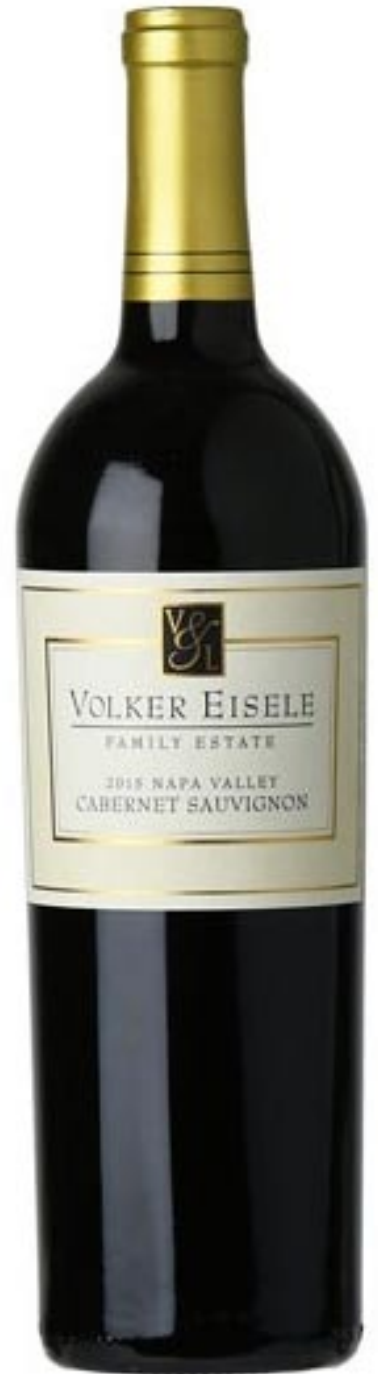
Volker Eisele Family Estate is situated in the Chiles Valley District, a sub-appellation of the Napa Valley American Viticultural Area. Cloaked in frequent Pacific fog, and with elevations of 600-1200 feet, the Chiles Valley District is one of the cooler areas of the Napa Valley resulting in a long growing season. The valley's perfect cabernet climate enhances the development of wines with subtle flavors, full body, and overall complexity.

The Estate's sixty acres of vineyard grow at elevations of 900 to 1100 feet on east, west and south facing slopes as well as on the valley floor. Soils vary from clay-loam to shale. After purchase of the vineyard property, the Eisele's began an extensive redevelopment and restoration of both the vineyard acreage and the riparian corridors. Presently 72% of the vineyard is planted in Cabernet Sauvignon, 12.5% Merlot, 10.5% Cabernet Franc, 3% Semillon and 2% Sauvignon Blanc. Seven different Cabernet clones have been incorporated to provide diversity of flavor.

Since 1974 the Eisele's have enriched the vineyard soils through use of organic farming practices. No herbicides, pesticides or chemical fertilizers have been used. The vineyard is certified as organic by both the California Certified Organic Farmers and the California Department of Food and Agriculture. It has been set back from the property's creeks to substantially increase riparian vegetation. Oaks and other native tree species have been planted on the creek banks to prevent erosion. Throughout the property creeks and associated riparian areas have been protected and enhanced.

The four hundred acre estate was originally part of the "Rancho Catacula" land grant, given to Joseph Ballinger Chiles in 1843 by the last Mexican governor of California. The Chiles family later sold a portion of their land to Francis Sievers, a German pioneer. In the 1870's, Sievers founded Lomita's Vineyard and Winery on the site. The original winery building, some of the tanks, and the original press still remain on the Estate. The oldest cabernet vines were planted by the Eisele's in 1976 and continue to yield fruit of superb quality.

[www.volkereiselefamlyestate.com](http://www.volkereiselefamlyestate.com)



*"Waxy and reductive at first, this wine opens slowly to reveal black olive, plum and a sinewy texture. It has balanced power on the midpalate alongside a mix of oaky char, dark chocolate and clove that finish in unison."* **Wine Enthusiast 92**

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## 2019 D'Aiguilhe Cotes de Castillon Bordeaux, France

Acquired by Stephan von Neipperg at the end of 1998, Château d'Aiguilhe is one of the most beautiful estates in the Castillon - Côtes de Bordeaux. The existing building, a sort of fortified farm, dates from the 13th century. Everything leads us to believe that the Aiguilhe seigneurie covered a very large tract of land in the Middle Age, encompassing several important fiefs. Located on the border between French-controlled and English-controlled areas during the Hundred Years' War, the Château played a major military role.

Today, the estates covers 111 hectares, of which 50 are devoted to winegrowing.

The vines (80% Merlot - 20% Cabernet Franc) grow uniquely on the upper part of the slope, where they find excellent natural drainage and south-facing sun exposure. The thin layer of relatively meagre clay-limestone and clay-silt soil covers a limestone substratum that provides wonderful water regulation. These natural advantages, combined with old vines, are conducive to producing powerful and mineral wines.

The estate is expertly managed by Jean-Patrick Meyrignac. It benefits from the tried and tested winegrowing methods used by Stephan von Neipperg at his Saint-Emilion estates: letting the terroir express itself fully, low yields and a very flexible approach to winemaking.

Notes from [www.wine.com](http://www.wine.com)



*"A terrific effort from this large and immaculately maintained property on the clay-limestone slopes of the Côtes de Castillon, the 2019 d'Aiguilhe exhibits aromas of cherries and cassis mingled with notions of burning embers, licorice and warm spices. Medium to full-bodied, layered and concentrated, with lively acids, powdery tannins and a mineral finish, it's intelligently matured in tank and large-format oak as well as small barriques."* **Wine Advocate 92**

*"Restrained but with good inner juiciness to its plum and cassis notes, while red licorice and red tea hints chime through. Shows a subtle chalky minerality that lengthens the finish. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2026."* **Wine Spectator 90**

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