

# SULLIVAN<sup>®</sup>

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## RUTHERFORD ESTATE

### 2018 J.O. SULLIVAN FOUNDER'S RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

#### VINTAGE SUMMARY:

By all accounts, 2018 was a fantastic vintage in the Napa Valley. Two years removed from drought, there was ample rain early in the year. A cool, mild spring caused bud break and flowering to be slightly behind previous years. Due to the moisture in the ground, the vine canopy became robust as temperatures started to climb, resulting in an ideal, even fruit set. The growing season was relatively mild, with no major heat spikes or rain events. These perfect conditions allowed the grapes to gradually accumulate flavor and complexity over the course of the growing season. Most Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon grapes were picked in the middle of September all the way through October. The seamless season of extended hang time led to Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot wines with optimal phenolic development, complexity and concentration.

#### WINEMAKER NOTES:

The J.O. Sullivan Founder's Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon reflects the very best of the Sullivan estate. The grapes were grown from the oldest vines on the property, which are deeply rooted in well-drained alluvial soils. With a signature style year in and year out, this wine's exceptional character—both visually and on the palate—is best described as vivid black. Extraordinarily savory on the nose, this wine reveals notes of dried sage, fennel, tobacco leaf, thyme and cedar. On the palate, dense yet velvety tannins meld together with the minerality of crushed rocks, brambly fruit, black licorice and cocoa dusted coffee beans. Dark and almost brooding, the finish of this wine lingers in the mouth revealing further layers of complexity, which will continue to evolve for many years to come.

**APPELLATION:**  
Rutherford

**VARIETALS:**  
91% Cabernet Sauvignon  
9% Petit Verdot

**WINEMAKER:**  
Jeff Cole

**RETAIL:**  
\$290

**VINEYARD:**  
Sullivan Estate

**PRODUCTION:**  
345 cases

**BARREL AGING:**  
21 months French Oak  
83% New

**ALCOHOL:**  
14.8%



**JEB DUNNUCK**  
RATING  
**96**

**JAMESSUCKLING.COM**  
Score  
**94**

  
OWEN BARGREEN  
**95 Points**