

Alta means “height” in Spanish and perfectly describes the mountainside site of Alta Vineyard in the Atlas Peak district of Napa Valley. The dramatic estate sits at 1700 feet above the Valley and provides fruit for owners Fred and Nina Oliai’s own limited Alta releases. Here, warm daytime temperatures are moderated by early shading and breezes from both San Francisco Bay to the south and the Delta to the east. Optimal conditions for growing intense, focused Cabernet Sauvignon.

Vintage 2011 was an unusually wet year throughout California. Given Alta’s mountaintop location, yields are naturally low, which aided ripening in the cooler than normal temperatures in the summer and fall. The eventual harvest was delayed a month but the gamble paid off as the lower bunch and weight counts made for focused flavors and full development of the fruit’s phenolics. For this very limited “Vintner’s Reserve” release, select rows of 100% Clone 6 Cabernet Sauvignon were harvested on November 11.

Winemaker Fred Oliai employed native yeasts and an extended pre and post fermentation maceration of 24 days for maximum extraction, flavor and color. After fermentation, the wine was aged for thirty months in eight, new French oak barrels. The finished 2011 Alta “VR” Cabernet was not fined or filtered. Only 180 cases were produced.



91 Points - Exceptional

“Solid and full-bodied... Enticing aromas of cedar and cinnamon precede focused but not overly ripe fruit flavors that suggest black cherry and cranberry, plus a dark chocolate impression that suits it well.” - *Feb. 2015 issue*



88 Points - Recommended

“The 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon Vintner’s Reserve exhibits more juiciness, depth and ripeness in its elegant, finesse-styled personality. Medium-bodied and pleasant...” - *Spring 2014 issue*

VINEYARD

Appellation: Napa Valley
Vineyard: Alta
Grower: Fred Oliai
Clones: Cabernet Sauvignon Clone 6
Elevation: 1700'
Soils: Decomposed Granite, Shaly Loams
Climate: Region II (UCD), Cool to Moderate
Harvest: 11 November 2011
Sugar: 25.0 Brix average

WINE

Winemaker: Fred Oliai
Alcohol: 14.1%
Acidity / pH: 5.80 g/L / 3.60
Oak Aging: 30 months French oak, 100% new
Production: 180 cases
Release: Spring 2014
Winery Retail: \$75

2011 RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

