

# BRANDER VINEYARDS



## Cabernet Sauvignon 2020

Los Olivos District AVA, Santa Ynez Valley, California

### ESTATE

Brander Vineyard is one of Santa Barbara County's legacy wineries, and founder Fred Brander is rightly considered a pioneer in the region. After completing studies at UC Davis, he interned with David Stare at Dry Creek Vineyard, and in 1975 planted a 40-acre vineyard just outside Los Olivos. Fred's interest in France's Bordeaux region led him to specialize in Sauvignon Blanc and Cabernet Sauvignon, and his early success showed the potential for these varieties in the warmer regions of the county. His firm belief in the uniqueness of his vineyard's microclimate led him to pursue an AVA specific to the area, and in 2016 the Los Olivos District was approved. Brander produces Cabernet Sauvignon and a range of stylistic Sauvignon Blanc bottlings, including single-vineyard wines. His Sauvignon Blancs are widely considered California benchmarks for the variety.

### WINE

Brander takes immense pride in their Bordeaux varietal plantings – perhaps none more-so than their Cabernet Sauvignon. Composed mostly of estate fruit, the wine is destemmed and fermented in large vats before aging for 15 months in 25% new French oak. The straightforward style yields a California Cabernet of subtlety and nuance, with an ethereal old-world soul behind plush, ruby tinged fruit and silky tannins.

### VINEYARD

Most of the grapes come from Brander's Estate vineyard in the Los Olivos District. High diurnal shifts in the area allow sufficient ripening during the day while preserving acidity at night. Brander also purchases fruit from the neighboring Theriot Vineyard to supplement.

### WINEMAKING

*Harvest:* Manual, beginning in early October

*Variety:* 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

*Fermentation:* Destemmed, into 1.5 ton bins

*Aging:* 15 months in 25% new French oak, followed by 3 months in stainless steel

*Alcohol:* 14.2%

### VINTAGE

Mercifully spared from wildfires, Santa Barbara enjoyed a healthy 2020 growing season. Lower yields brought about greater concentration and complexity in the final product.

## WINE ENTHUSIAST

91

*"Focused aromas of blackberry sauce and black plum are clean and fresh on the nose of this bottling. The ample fruit of the palate is balanced by grippy tannins, dried oregano and cracked-pepper flavors, making for a serious yet playful sip."* - MATT KETTMAN, 12/1/2022