

California Wine of the Week: Acumen 2013 Mountainside Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

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By Stacey Vreeken, Wine Press

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The 2013 Bordeaux-style cabernet sauvignon from Acumen is even, smooth and silky. Ready to drink now, the red wine shows restraint and balance after catching its breath upon opening. Aged 18 months in French oak, the 80 percent cabernet sauvignon is complemented by 10 percent cabernet franc, 5 percent petit verdot, 4 percent malbec and 1 percent merlot — all Bordeaux varietals.

The winery >> Acumen vineyards are set in the Atlas Peak AVA of Napa and are under the partnership of viticulturist Garrett Buckland, viticulturist and winemaker Steve Mathiasson and recently deceased winemaker Denis Malbec, who was killed in a car accident in 2016. The 2013 and 2014 wines are his last.

Why you'll like it >> The Mountainside Cabernet Sauvignon is like a deep root, full of twists and turns and dark dimension. Purple in color with a blackberry aroma, it's velvety smooth. Cranberry, raspberry, plum, fig and black cherry spill across your palate with notes of duff, chalk, black pepper and minerality. The lingering finish revisits the blackberry, this time in flavor, completing the circle. Allow to breath, decant if possible.

Pair it with >> The classic cabernet foods: prime rib, pork roast, pasta sauces, chocolate

Cost >> \$60

Tasting room >> In the works for Napa

Details >> www.acumenwine.com, 707-251-8885.

URL: <http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/lifestyle/20170117/california-wine-of-the-week-acumen-2013-mountainside-cabernet-sauvignon-napa-valley>

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