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Gold Club September 2024

Caterwaul Wines 2021 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Calistoga, Napa Valley, California

About the wine: Matt Hardin, a 6th generation Napa Valley resident and farmer, and Thomas Rivers Brown, winemaker for some of Napa and Sonoma's most iconic labels, developed a friendship out of their love for the wines of Napa Valley. Out of that friendship, the idea of working together, utilizing the strengths of the other, Caterwaul was born. "The farmer works to produce the best crop possible, knowing once it leaves their hands, they no longer have control. The winemaker, regardless of skill and ability, can only work with what comes through the winery doors."—using this mindset, they use ultra-premium grapes as the base for the Caterwaul Napa bottling. As an added bonus to our club members, the 2021 year was marked by low yields and high-quality grapes!

About the Region: Napa Valley is one of the world's premier wine destinations and boasts more than 400 wineries and wine tasting rooms. Of the 40 or so grape varieties planted in Napa Valley, Cabernet Sauvignon is the most prolific. It accounts for more than 50% of vineyards planted here. It's Napa Valley's hallmark wine. Napa Valley AVA was the first official wine region of California established in 1981. These days, 9 percent of Napa County is under vine. The region is home to 475 wineries and 95 percent of them are family owned. The wine industry produces more than 1,000 distinct brands of wine and generates approximately \$50 billion in annual revenue.

Tasting Notes: Here's what the winemaker says... "The palate experience has an interwoven dark fruit core with lively baker's chocolate notes that then lean towards brambly red fruit." What does that mean to you? We're not sure, as everyone has different palate responses to individual wines. We think you'll appreciate the notes of dark fruit, vanilla, and a slightly earthy finish. What you will appreciate is this review... "The Caterwaul Napa Valley might just be the finest wine in the market in its price range."

Food Pairing: Napa Cabernet Sauvignons is the ultimate food wine as far as your friendly writer is concerned. Almost any red meat, especially served rarer, is going to do the trick. With young cabernets it helps to have an element of charring or spice to offset the sweetness and tannins. Try a Portobello mushroom burger once! Delicious!!!

