

ROSEMARY CAKEBREAD'S CALIFORNIA CABERNET COMBINES FINESSE, POWER ALL WITH A MONA LISA SMILE

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If you walked into a room of people and looked carefully at each face, you'd keep coming back to Rosemary Cakebread's. With her white hair and wise and warm eyes, there's almost something ethereal, mystical, about her. And I swear, the woman has a Mona Lisa smile. She looks as though she's figured out something wonderful and is enjoying the heck out of her knowledge.

And you know? That would be how to make Napa Cabernet Sauvignon that balances finesse

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"I knew I did not want to make Chardonnay or Sauvignon Blanc. There are many, many great ones out there already and always a big ocean to swim in," she told me. "I was looking for Chenin Blanc, Albariño, some fun, unique white varieties."

"Cabernet Sauvignon is what I know and I love making," she told me when I asked why Cabernet.

And the sole

"I knew I did and always varieties.

"I stumbled that together vineyard with

"For me, it is so much about aromatics," Cakebread said, "even with the reds. And of course there is tannin and all the things that one would expect. I guess the way my brain works is I'm really thinking about what things smell like."

The Albariño has 11% Muscat Blanc in it, which gives it a beautiful, lush nose.



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