

Keplinger



Keplinger strives to create seamlessly-crafted, terroir-driven, Rhone varietal wines from diverse sites in Napa, Sonoma & Sierra Foothills. All the vineyards are hillside or mountain sites, carefully farmed for small berries and concentrated flavors, in close collaboration with Helen. The wines are made in small lots, with careful attention paid to every detail. Keplinger constantly strives to make unique wines that are expressions of their vineyards and vintages. Today, production of nine boutique cuvees totals 1,600 cases, and a single vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon from Oakville Ranch Vineyard, Oakville AVA has been added to the line up.



2017
Cabernet Sauvignon
Oakville Ranch Vineyard

VARIETAL: 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
APPELLATION: Oakville
PRODUCTION: 300 Cases
ALCOHOL: 14.6%
AGING: 22 months in 100% French oak barrels

97 Points - "A primary beast of a wine, the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Ranch Vineyard comes from a great vineyard in Oakville. Offering full-bodied richness and an elegant, layered mouthfeel, it has a wonderful bouquet of blue fruits, graphite, crushed rocks, and integrated oak. It has the more elegant style of the 2017 vintage, but it certainly doesn't come up short on concentration, richness, or length. The vintage doesn't get much better." - Jeb Dunnuck

94 Points - "Ripe, fresh and very inviting, with crushed plum and blackberry notes leading the way, showing streaks of singed vanilla, sweet bay leaf and menthol. The ample grip is very fine-grained, melding nicely with the fruit through the finish. Drink now through 2034." - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator

2018
CALDERA
El Dorado

VARIETAL: 77% Mourvedre, 19% Grenache, 4% Counoise
APPELLATION: El Dorado, Sierra Foothills
PRODUCTION: 150 Cases
ALCOHOL: 14.7%
AGING: 16 months in 100% neutral demi-muids, 600L French oak

94 Points - "The Mourvèdre-dominated 2018 Caldera (there is 19% Grenache and 4% Counoise) has a classic, spicy, red-fruited and white pepper-scented bouquet as well as medium to full-bodied richness on the palate. It's another impeccably made, balanced wine from this label that is going to deliver the goods over the coming 10-12 years." - Jeb Dunnuck

93 Points - "So supple and elegantly layered, with plump raspberry and blackberry flavors that pick up accents of grilled meat, orange peel and toasty mocha. Finishes with refined tannins. Drink now through 2029." - Tim Fish, Wine Spectator

2018
LITHIC
Shake Ridge Vineyard

VARIETAL: 46% Grenache, 35% Mourvedre, 19% Syrah
APPELLATION: El Dorado, Sierra Foothills
PRODUCTION: 240 Cases
ALCOHOL: 14.6%
AGING: 18 months in 100% French oak barrels, 30% new oak

96 Points - "A darker, richer wine, the 2018 Lithic is a Southern Rhône-like blend of Grenache, Mourvèdre, and Syrah that's all from a site in Amador County. Blackberries, smoked meats, pepper, and chocolate notes emerge from the glass, and it's medium to full-bodied, with a rounded, seamless texture and terrific tannins. It's brilliant wine that will certainly stand up to any number of great Châteauneuf du Papes." - Jeb Dunnuck

93 Points - "Alluring and vibrant, with multilayered and expressive black raspberry, dusty mocha and smoked meat accents that finish with polished tannins. Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah. Drink now through 2028." - Tim Fish, Wine Spectator

2018
SUMO
Shake Ridge Vineyard

VARIETAL: 13% Syrah, 84% Petite Syrah, 3% Viognier
APPELLATION: Amador
PRODUCTION: 295 Cases
ALCOHOL: 14.8%
AGING: 18 months in 100% French oak barrels, 60% new oak

94 Points - "The inky hued 2018 Sumo reveals a lively bouquet of blue fruits, violets, peony, spiced meats, and bouquet garni. This full-bodied, rich, yet elegant Petite Sirah has building tannins, terrific purity and a great finish. It's another brilliant wine from the Sierra Foothills." - Jeb Dunnuck

94 Points - "Intense yet the texture is rich and polished. Offers deeply structured blueberry and huckleberry flavors that draw in dusky spice, dried orange and dark chocolate. Petite Sirah, Syrah and Viognier. Drink now through 2030." - Tim Fish, Wine Spectator

2018
HANGMAN'S Syrah
Hudson Vineyard

VARIETAL: 95% Syrah, 5% Viognier
APPELLATION: Carneros
PRODUCTION: 209 Cases
ALCOHOL: 14.9%
AGING: 18 months in 500L & 228L French oak barrels, 50% new oak

99 Points - "Another awesome wine from Helen Keplinger, the 2018 Syrah Hangman's comes from the Hudson Vineyard in Carneros and includes 5% Viognier. Incredible notes of black raspberries, olive tapenade, wildflowers, and bacon fat emerge from this Côte-Rôtie look-alike on steroids. Deep, opulent, and multi-dimensional on the palate, with full-bodied richness, it's a knockout bottle of wine that will shine for at least 10-15 years. As with the Fuego Y Mar, there's no need to delay gratification, though." - Jeb Dunnuck