Ad Vivum
Cabernet Sauvignon
Napa Valley - United States  2011

Ad Vivum Cellars produces a single wine, from a single vineyard in Yountville from a single clone of Cabernet Sauvignon produced each year by long time Napa winemaker Chris Phelps. Chris earned his degree in Viticulture from UC Davis in 1981. After graduating he interned at Louis Martini Winery in St. Helena, then left for 16 months exploring Bordeaux. He met Christian Moueix, who persuaded him to stay on to manage the 1982 harvest at Château des Laurets, in the Puisseguin-St. Emilion district of Bordeaux. It was during this trial-by-fire experience that Chris met his mentor, the brilliant Jean-Claude Berrouet, who served for 44 years as the winemaker of Chateau Pétrus. Upon returning to Napa Valley, Chris went on to spend twelve years as founding winemaker at Moueix’s Napa Project ‘Dominus,’ under Berrouet’s guidance.

The roots for Ad Vivum begin in 1990 when Chris met vigneron Larry Bettinelli on a men’s retreat. Larry is a 5th generation farmer and both he and Chris connected over their shared passion for wine. Starting in 2005 Larry identified 8 rows (little less than 1 acre) for Chris in the Sleeping Lady Vineyard located in Yountville. Coincidentally this vineyard is located just south of Dominus, down the hill from Keever, Beckstoffer Missouri Hopper and Blankiet Vineyards. Thus this is pretty good vineyard company with Harlan Estate and Malbec & Malbec purchasing fruit from the site as well. Since then, Chris has continued to source from these 8 rows of Cabernet Sauvignon clone 191; his first commercial release was from the 2007 vintage.

The name Ad Vivum is creative; it is derived from Latin and ‘where wine and life meet.’ When wine is used appropriately it enhances life. The symbol on each bottle dates from Babylonia and represents fertility or life.

2011 was a very cool vintage that called for prudent, conservative farming. Sleeping Lady is farmed in a rigorous manner that ensures full phenolic ripeness to be achieved, an especially critical factor in 2011. By working closely with Bettinelli, they were able to ripen the Cabernet prior to the onset of an early wet winter in late October. Between heavy March rains, a cool spring and a warm mid-summer period, the 2011 growing season was not unlike many very successful Bordeaux vintages.

### Composition
100% Cabernet Sauvignon (Clone 191)

### Yields
3.3 tons/acre

### Élevage
18 months in French barrique (60% new)

### Soil Type
Dark Gravelly-Sandy Clay Loam

### Production
258 cases

### Average Vine Age
21 years old

### Tasting Notes
The aromas evoke cassis berries and buds, as well as dark black raspberry and graphite. Hints of black cherry, clove and sweet vanilla add complexity. On the palate, a core of ripe, silky tannin is enhanced by sweet, well-integrated oak, as well as lingering flavors of blackberry liqueur and black raspberry.

### Reviews
None

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