

IRONCLAD CABERNET

{FE WINES}

“The inaugural 2018s make for an impressive debut.”

Fe Wines on Napa Valley's Spring Mountain

November 2021 Issue

Jon and Joanne Goldstein had no intention of making wine when they purchased land in Napa Valley to build a home in 2012. Yet, when introduced to winemaker Aaron Pott through their realtor, they asked him for his opinion on their 17 acres of wilderness on Spring Mountain.

“He came to us and told us we should make wine,” says Joanne. In addition to his namesake brand, Pott consults for more than a dozen wineries in Napa. He says his first visit to the property reminded him of visiting a potential Spring Mountain vineyard site 10 years earlier with longtime Beringer vineyard manager Bob Steinhauer. “After looking at the soil, he said, ‘This is a no-brainer!’ and walked off the property,” laughs Pott, referring to Steinhauer. “I had the same experience here.”



Joanne and Jon Goldstein

For the Goldsteins, Pott is the X-factor that has brought the property to life. “He had the vision of what kind of wine to make, even though we hadn’t committed to making wine,” Jon says.



Over the next five years, the Goldsteins prepared the land with Pott’s help, establishing 6 acres of vines, about two-thirds of them Cabernet Sauvignon, along with individual blocks of Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot.

The inaugural 2018s make for an impressive debut. Pott aims to express the site through minimal intervention and indigenous yeast fermentations.

The brand’s name, which refers to the atomic symbol for iron, draws inspiration from the volcanic, Aiken red, iron-rich soil of the property. With total production at about 750 cases, the couple is only producing two wines for the moment: a Cabernet and a proprietary blend called 26, the atomic weight of iron. “It took a lot of time and decisions and effort just to get the first vintage into the bottle,” Jon says. “But we’re optimistic about the future, and the vineyard is only going to get better.” — A.R.

94 Fe Wines	26 Spring Mountain District 2018	\$125
94 Fe Wines	Cabernet Sauvignon	\$175
	Spring Mountain District Fe 2018	