

## 2001 CABERNET SAUVIGNON ESTATE



75% Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon  
11 % Napa Valley Merlot  
14 % Napa Valley Cabernet Franc  
Harvested at 25.2 Brix,  
Harvested between September 9 and October  
4,2001  
14.2 % Alcohol  
0.5 TA/3.8 pH  
2650 Cases produced

**HARVEST NOTES:** The 2001 Napa Valley growing season was a little turbulent, with an early spring, a surprise frost and early heat spikes, but as the grapes came in, the harvest appeared to be running smoothly. A mild winter with very low rainfall preceded the spring growing season, which moved at an accelerated pace due to early warm temperatures. Vineyards experienced one of the quickest flowering periods on record, with even flowering and set occurring across the board. Yields averaged 2.2 tons/acre in 2001.

**WINEMAKING NOTES:** Our Estate program follows traditional French winemaking practices. Native yeasts induce fermentation. Techniques include the use of extended maceration (each lot averaged 30 days on the grape skins) and frequent pumping-over (three times a day). The 2001 vintage aged for 23 months in 58% new Tronçais, Nevers and Alliers oak (thin-staved, medium-plus toast Chateau Ferre barrels. Tonnelleries: Seguin Moreau, Radoux, and Sylvain-Doreau. Barrels were topped monthly and raked every 6 months. To preserve fruit intensity and body, the wine was not filtered prior to bottling on December 9-10, 2003.

**TASTING NOTES:** The reticent nose opens to black currant, vanilla and hints of cedar. The lush full-bodied palate continues with flavors of ripe cassis, vanilla and hints of tobacco. The long and intense finish is accentuated by the young velvety tannins. Drinkability: now -2018.

**VINEYARD NOTES:** Our estate vineyards planted in 1990 on the Napa Valley hillsides east of the Silverado Trail provided the grapes. A variety of exposures increased the wines complexity. Western slopes: Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Eastern slopes: Cabernet Franc and a second Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard. Crop level and vine growth were closely monitored to achieve balance and intensify fruit character. The vineyards are densely planted (1240 vines per acre) and vertically trellised. The rocky soil with moderate amount of clay averaging three feet in depth provides excellent drainage.

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