



## 1999 CABERNET SAUVIGNON ESTATE

75% Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

17 %Napa Valley Merlot

8% Napa Valley Cabernet Franc

Harvested at 24.3 Brix, between October 2 and October 9, 1999

13.9% Alcohol

0.51 TA/3.7pH

2471 Cases produced

Release Date: March 2002

**HARVEST NOTES:** The 1999 Napa Valley growing season was long and cool allowing us to harvest extraordinarily clean, healthy grapes with excellent acidity and mature varietal fruit flavors. With growing conditions in 1999 similar to 1998, but cooler, grape clusters were very healthy with no sunburn. This year Napa Valley experienced its typical difference in daytime (warm) and evening (cool) temperatures that create optimal conditions for the development of balanced sugar and acid levels. Other than a trace of precipitation in mid September, rain was not an issue in 1999. Yields averaged 2.91 tons/acre in 1999.

**WINEMAKING NOTES:** Our Estate program follows traditional French winemaking practices. Native yeasts induce fermentation. Techniques include the use of extended maceration (each lot averaged 35 days on the grape skins) and frequent pumping-over (three to four times a day) The 1999 vintage aged for 22 months in 50% new Tronçais, Nevers and Alliers oak (thin-staved, medium-plus toast Chateau Ferre barrels). Tonnelleries: 70% Seguin Moreau and 30 %Radoux. Barrels were topped monthly and raked every four to six months. To preserve fruit intensity and body, the wine was not filtered prior to bottling on August 20, 2001.

**TASTING NOTES:** The reticent nose opens to black currant, vanilla and hints of cedar. The full-bodied palate continues with these flavors of ripe cassis, vanilla and hints of tobacco. The long and intense finish is accentuated by the young velvety tannins. Drinkability: now -2015.

**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. Rocky soil with moderate amount of clay averaging three feet in depth provides excellent drainage.