



BELL

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Cabernet Sauvignon 2001

Napa Valley

The Wine

Our Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is a blend created from select vineyards, appellations and clones within the renowned Napa Valley. Drawing on his experience with Cabernet Sauvignon clones and his intimate knowledge of sub-appellations within the region, Anthony has created a wine that builds upon the unique terroir of Napa Valley. Our 2001 vintage is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (90%), Merlot (8%), and Syrah (2%) from vineyards in Rutherford, Oakville, Yountville, and the Sierra Foothills.

For the 2001 vintage, Cabernet Sauvignon clones 4, 6 and 7, primarily from vineyards in Rutherford and Oakville, were blended and softened with Merlot from our estate vineyard in Yountville. Syrah from the Sierra Foothills brings additional fruit to the nose and richness to the palate. The wine was aged in a combination of French (75%) and American (25%) oak barrels, of which 40% were new barrels, for 21 months. The wine was not fined and received one rough filtration prior to bottling.

Vintage Notes

The 2001 vintage was three weeks early and 15% lighter than usual. Winter rains totaling about half of normal and harsh early spring weather conditions including several unusual nights of frost in early April contributed to reduced crop volume. The cool April was followed by the hottest May on record, which resulted in berry shatter in certain varieties. Although extremely hot weather continued through June and July, cool August days and cold evenings extended hang time and allowed the grapes to balance flavor profiles with rising sugar levels, yielding big, full wines of concentrated color and flavor.

Tasting Notes

Our Cabernet sauvignon, deep ruby in color, has rich, ripe cherry, cassis and blackberry fruit aromas. Soft tannins and sweet oak combine with a gentle hint of pepper and spice to yield a full-bodied wine with excellent balance and a long, lingering finish that will continue to develop with additional bottle age. The wine's exquisite balance continues the sophisticated, elegant, Bordeaux style associated with Bell Cabernet sauvignon. This wine will reward those with the patience to cellar it.

Technical Analysis

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| Varietal: | Cabernet Sauvignon (90%) Merlot (8%) Syrah (2%) |
| Appellation: | Napa Valley (86%) Sierra Foothills (14%) |
| Total Acid | 0.64 gm/100ml |
| pH | 3.70 |
| Alcohol | 13.9% |
| Aging | 21 months in French Oak |
| Bottle Date | August 2003 |
| Production | 1,067 cases |

