



# BELL

WINE CELLARS

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## Sonnette 2002 Napa Valley

*Sonnette – French noun, feminine. Transl. – 1. bell*

### Background

Bell Wine Cellars is committed to hand-crafting limited edition bottlings of extraordinary wines that best reflect the *terroir* of their vineyards and the care and passion of their growers. In *Sonnette*, our “little bell,” we have created our second proprietary wine, a Bordeaux blend, capturing the unique fruit expressions of the classic Bordeaux varietals grown in Napa Valley.

### The Wine

*Sonnette* is a blend of our finest lots of Bordeaux varietals, selected from some of Napa Valley’s best vineyards, chosen for their concentration, depth of flavor and supple tannin structure. Rich and luscious on the palate, the elegant mouthfeel is followed by a long, textured finish of sweet oak and rich fruit. *Sonnette* is a “reserve” style wine; we select the best lots from the very finest wines of the vintage and, unlike our other Cabernet wines, create a blend that is unrestricted by varietal regulations. For instance, if Merlot is great in a particular vintage, the wine could be very heavily influenced by Merlot, whereas in another vintage we might use large amounts of Malbec, or Cabernet franc. Of all our wines, this offers us the broadest artistic canvas and widest parameters within which to express ourselves as winemakers.

### Vintage Notes

The 2002 vintage was extremely compressed, and followed a long, cool growing season. A cool spring saw some frosts in April and this was followed by light rains in May. Following veraison in July, growing conditions were truly ideal with warm days and cool, even cold nights. A few manageable heat spikes in late September and early October brought the fruit to full maturity. A brief heat wave during harvest had growers scrambling but temperatures dropped to season normal and the remaining grapes matured slowly and evenly.

### Tasting Notes

This vintage of *Sonnette* is deep ruby in color, and has rich, ripe cherry, cassis and blackberry fruit aromas. Firm tannins and sweet oak combine with a gentle hint of pepper and spice to yield a full-bodied wine with excellent balance and a rich, long, lingering finish that will continue to develop with additional bottle age.

### Technical Analysis

Varietal:	Cabernet Sauvignon (99%) Merlot (1%)
Appellation:	Napa Valley
Total Acid	0.61 gm/100ml
pH	3.74
Alcohol	14.2%
Bottle Date	March 2006
Production	97 cases

