



BELL

WINE CELLARS

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Sonnette 2003 Napa Valley

Sonnette – French noun, feminine. Transl. – 1.small 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 2003 vintage followed an extremely challenging, yet rewarding growing season. The wettest April on record and late season, September heat spikes contributed to lower overall yields, but produced a vintage with high quality, great color concentration, and intensity of flavors. A long, cool summer allowed fruit flavors to evolve ahead of sugar accumulation, and we harvested beautifully mature fruit in mid-September.

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 (70%) Merlot (28%) Petit verdot (1%) Cabernet franc (1%)
Appellation:	Napa Valley
Total Acid	0.31 gm/100ml
pH	3.62
Alcohol	14.5%
Bottle Date	March 2006
Production	481 cases

