



BELL

WINE CELLARS

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Sonnette 2005 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*, a baby bell, we have created our second proprietary wine, a Bordeaux blend, capturing the unique fruit expressions of these varietals grown in Napa Valley. The fifth wine in our Cabernet Collection, *Sonnette* represents a selection of our choicest barrel lots, and allows us to produce a wine expressive of these varietals and the vintage and not restricted by varietal percentage regulations.

The Wine

Our *Sonnette* is a blend of the finest lots of Bordeaux varietals, selected from some of Napa Valley's best vineyards; and chosen for their concentration, depth of flavor and supple tannin structure. The 2005 vintage is a blend of Cabernet sauvignon from Yountville (13%), Rutherford (9%) and Carneros (17%); Merlot (37%) from the Spanos-Berberian vineyard surrounding the winery; Cabernet franc from Atlas Peak (8%), Malbec from Yountville (8%) and Petit verdot from the Massa Ranch in Yountville (8%). Rich and luscious on the palate, the elegant mouthfeel is followed by a long, textured finish of sweet oak and rich fruit. Beautifully balanced, this wine will reward those with the patience to age it.

Vintage Notes

The 2005 growing season began with wet weather, followed by a dry period in March. Rainfall continued well into spring with later than usual bloom and set, and we experienced unseasonable rain into June. The cool weather continued into summer with few heat spikes. As September approached we were concerned that the larger than normal crop would not mature as fog prevailed well into the harvest season, keeping daytime temperatures cool. In the end, the long cool growing season gave us excellent wines with beautiful structure, great color, and high natural acidity.

Tasting Notes

Our *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. Rich and luscious on the palate, the wine has excellent balance and a rich, long, lingering finish that will continue to develop with additional bottle age.

Technical Analysis

Varietal:	Cabernet Sauvignon (39%) Merlot (37%) Cabernet franc (8%) Malbec (8%) Petit verdot (8%)
Appellation:	Napa Valley
Alcohol	13.7%
Aging	21 months in 58% French, 42% American, 83% new
Bottle Date	August 2007
Production	297 cases

