



BELL

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Cabernet Sauvignon 2006 Napa Valley

The Wine

Our Napa Valley Cabernet sauvignon is a blend created from select vineyards and appellations 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 2006 vintage is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (33% Clone 4, 21% Clone 6, and 30% Clone 337), Cabernet Sauvignon (84%), Petit Verdot (7%), Merlot (5%), Cabernet franc (3%), and Malbec (1%), from vineyards in Carneros, Rutherford, Oakville, and Yountville.

The wine was aged in a combination of French (70%) and American (30%) oak barrels, of which 43% were new barrels, for 20 months. The wine was not fined and received a screen filtration prior to bottling.

Vintage Notes

The 2006 growing season began with heavy rains and floods around the Napa Valley. Rainfall continued well into spring with later than usual bloom and set in June. A record heat wave in mid-July failed to damage vines as they were slightly behind in the cycle. Normal, mild weather returned in August and continued, allowing for paced ripening. Cold weather with rain in October slowed sugar accumulation while allowing extended hang time, which enhances maturity and optimal development of flavors. Overall, the season was an outstanding year and has produced wines with beautiful structure, great color, and high natural acidity.

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. The different Cabernet clones give the wine a multi-layered dimension to the palate. The long growing season at the Truchard Vineyard in the cool Carneros district yields grapes with deep color and great natural acidity. The Beckstoffer Georges III Vineyard on the Conn Creek alluvial fan adjacent to Caymus in Rutherford delivers classic mid-valley fruit and supple tannins and "Rutherford Dust" earth flavors. The Petit Verdot adds depth to the color and a tannic richness, while the Merlot, Malbec and Cabernet franc bring softness, acidity and fruit respectively. Crafted in a rich, concentrated European style, this wine pairs well with flavorful, full-bodied meals, and will develop a harmonious smoothness with age. Excellent today, the wine will also reward those with the patience to cellar it.

Technical Analysis

Varietal:	Cabernet Sauvignon (84%) Petit Verdot (7%) Merlot (5%) Cabernet franc (3%) Malbec (1%)
Appellation:	Napa Valley
Total Acid	0.61 gm/100ml
pH	3.63
Alcohol	14.5%
Aging	20 months in 70% French 30% American Oak, 43% new
Bottle Date	July 2008
Production	1,837 cases

