



BELL

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Talianna 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley

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 Talianna, named after Sandra's daughters, Talia and Anna, we have created a proprietary wine, capturing the unique fruit expressions of our most important varietals.

Vinification

Talianna is a blend of Cabernet sauvignon, Clone 6 (80%) grown on the Beckstoffer Georges III vineyard in the Rutherford sub-appellation of Napa Valley and Syrah (20%), Estrella Clone, grown on the Massa Ranch in Yountville. The grapes are hand-harvested and gently crushed to retain 40% whole berries. Prior to yeasting with Bordeaux red yeast, we cold soaked for 72 hours, increasing the richness and intensity of the fruit character. Color extraction utilizes a combination of manual pump overs via a screen during the initial fermentation, with gentle cap irrigation as the wine goes dry. Following fermentation the wine went through malo-lactic fermentation in the presence of the skins. Both varietals were aged separately, and then blended shortly before bottling. The wine was aged 20 months in a combination of French (90%) and American oak barrels, 100% of which were new. The wine has not been fined or filtered.

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

The rich luscious fruit of the Syrah (20%) combines with the supple tannins and elegant structure of the Cabernet Sauvignon (80%) to produce a wine with exceptional fruit on both the nose and palate. Generally our Clone 6 Cabernet is aged for up to 18 months prior to release. However, in Talianna, the addition of the Syrah softens the Clone 6 Cabernet tannins, allowing the Clone 6 Cabernet to be enjoyed sooner. As the wine ages, the influence of the Syrah is surpassed by the Cabernet, and the wine acquires the dusty, cedary characters one associates with mature Rutherford Cabernet. The resulting wine has a beautiful balance between fruit, oak, tannins and acidity with an elegant finish. An expression of vineyard and variety, this rich and complex wine will mature beautifully.

Technical Analysis

Varietal	Cabernet Sauvignon (80%), Syrah (20%)
Source	Napa Valley
Harvest dates	October 25-31, 2006
Harvest sugar	27.7 Brix
Total Acid	0.61 gm/100ml
pH	3.68
Alcohol	14.7%
Aging	20 months in 90% French Oak, 100% new
Bottle Date	July 2008
Production	496 6-pack cases

