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Cabernet Sauvignon 2003 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 2003 vintage is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (85%), Petite verdot (7%), Cabernet franc (5%) and Merlot (3%), from vineyards in Carneros, Rutherford, Oakville, and Yountville. The wine is a blend of four different Cabernet clones – Clones 4, 6, 7 and 337.

The wine was aged in a combination of French (81%) and American (19%) oak barrels, of which 62% were new barrels, for 18 months. The wine was not fined and received one rough filtration prior to bottling.

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

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 four 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 Petite verdot adds depth to the color and a tannic richness, while the Merlot and Cabernet franc bring softness 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 (85%) Petite verdot (7%) Cabernet franc (5%) Merlot (3%)
Appellation:	Napa Valley
Total Acid	0.61 gm/100ml
pH	3.67
Alcohol	14.6%
Aging	18 months in 81% French 19% American Oak
Bottle Date	May 2005
Production	3,131cases

