



BELL

WINE CELLARS

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Sonnette 2004 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* 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 2004 vintage is a blend of Cabernet sauvignon from Oakville (14%), Rutherford (14%) and Carneros (14%); Merlot (25%) from the Spanos-Berberian vineyard surrounding the winery; Cabernet franc (12%) from Atlas Peak and Petit verdot (11%) from the Massa Ranch in Yountville. 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 2004 vintage yielded fruit bearing the imprint of an early spring, a slow and steady ripening period that ended with a fast, hot finish several weeks ahead of traditional harvest timelines. Warm, consistent summer weather was bracketed by an early spring bud break, and several late summer hot spells, creating growing conditions that allowed for one of the earliest harvests in almost a decade. Overall yields were lower than expected and the resulting wines show inky color, ripe fruit flavors and great 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 (52%) Merlot (25%) Cabernet franc (12%) Petit verdot (11%)
Appellation:	Napa Valley
Total Acid	0.60 gm/100ml
pH	3.70
Alcohol	14.6%
Aging	19 months in 69% French, 31% American, 86% new
Bottle Date	June 2006
Production	200 cases

