



# BELL

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## 2006 Big Guy Red Wine California

*“The best thing about a man is his dog.” – French proverb.*

Winemaking goes to the dogs!

After many years of faithfully welcoming guests to the winery, Ty (our Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier whom Anthony calls “Big Guy”) shares his own favorite wine for those lovely BBQ dinners he so enjoys. Our Big Guy Red blend pairs beautifully with spare ribs, pork tenderloins, burgers, rib eyes – you get the idea! Don’t forget to share a tidbit with your faithful friend, and ENJOY!

Our Big Guy Red Wine is a blend from select lots drawn from California appellations. Bordeaux varietals Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Malbec are blended with Syrah, a Rhone varietal. These lots display lively fruit aromas and flavors. Enjoyable while young, the tannin structures will allow the wine to develop gracefully for several years.

### Vintage Notes

The 2006 growing season began with heavy rains. 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 2006 Big Guy is a blend strongly influenced by Syrah from the Canterbury Vineyard in the Sierra Foothills. This vineyard yields grapes with ripe, luscious, sunny fruit flavors and a delicious mouthfeel. Various lots of our traditional Bordeaux varietals that remain following the blending of our various Cabernet sauvignon based wines are blended with the Syrah to create a wine with lively fruit aromas and flavors with soft, supple tannins. The addition of Syrah makes this wine approachable at an earlier age, while still having a structure that will allow the wine to develop for several years. A medium-bodied wine, with rich, complex flavors of fruit and toasty oak integrated with supple tannins, this wine is a delightful accompaniment to any occasion.

### Technical Analysis

Varietal: Syrah (60%), Cabernet sauvignon (26%)  
Merlot (10%), Malbec (3%),  
Cabernet franc (1%)  
Source: Napa Valley and Sierra Foothills  
Alcohol: 15.1%  
Bottle Date: July 2008  
Production: 1,131 cases

