2009 CABERNET FRANC

Burgundy-red in color with aromas of ripe, red plums and raspberries intertwined with cedar. In the background, there are notes of sage, and a hint of black cherries and carob. The palate has a delicate red fruit entry leading into lingering and intensifying flavors of dried cherry and a hint of sweet toasted walnut and ending with a hint of cranberry. It will age at least 3-5 years after release.

HARVEST & WINEMAKING
Both the Cabernet Franc and the Cabernet Sauvignon grapes come the Stagecoach Vineyard in Atlas Peak. They were harvested on October 24 and 25 at 27 and 27.5 Brix respectively. The fruit was hand sorted before a two-day cold soak. The lots were inoculated with an assortment of French yeast strains and fermented cool, with gentle pumppovers 2-3 times per day. The wine underwent malolactic fermentation and was aged 16 months in barrel before being bottled in June 2011. The wine rested in our underground cellars until its release in April 2012.

THE 2009 VINTAGE
The 2009 season started with our third year of drought, but late rains delayed irrigation needs and a warm spell in June helped curtail excessive canopy development. A mild growing season followed, with the heat finally coming in September. Rain fell for one day in mid-October, but fortunately all the thin-skinned varieties were already picked and the only some of the thicker-skinned Cabernet remained on the vine. The sun came out after that and we had perfect fall ripening weather. When all was said and done, we got much needed rain AND beautiful, fully ripened grapes that produced lush, delicious wines!

PAIRING RECOMMENDATIONS
This wine would go great with lighter dishes and some ethnic dishes. It is as versatile with food as it is with wine blending. Try it with grilled marinated chicken and Greek salad for a spring picnic.

WINE STATS
Cases produced: 614
Alcohol: 14.2%
TA: 5.9 g/L
pH: 3.70
Blend: 97% Cabernet Franc; 3% Cabernet Sauvignon
Oak: aged 16 months in French oak barrels, 30% new
Appellation: Atlas Peak, Napa Valley