2009 NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Dark black in color, with aromas of fresh raspberries and ripe, red cherries and notes of vanilla and cocoa powder. Over time, background notes of roasted coffee bean and a touch of pencil lead come through. The palate is smooth and rich with ripe, developed tannins giving the wine a full arc in the mouth, with flavors of blackberry and a hint of smoky, sweet oak.

HARVEST & WINEMAKING
The grapes used to produce this wine are from an A-list of Napa Valley growers, including: our Sequoia Grove and Tonella estate vineyards, Stagecoach, Morisoli, Lamoreaux, Beckstoffer George III, Cunat, Healy, Christian, and Madrigal. Each site was harvested on its own timeframe, between September 18 – November 5, at a Brix between 22.5 and 31.2. The fruit was hand sorted before undergoing a 1-2 day cold soak and small-batch fermentation employing an assortment of French yeast strains. The wine was gently pumped over 2-3 times per day during primary fermentation. The wine underwent malolactic fermentation in barrel, where it aged 20 months before being racked three times and bottled June 2011. The finished wine then rested in our underground cellar until its release in March 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!

WINE STATS
Cases produced: 23,830
Alcohol: 14.2%
TA: 5.7 g/L
pH: 3.72
Blend: 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 5% Syrah, 1% Petit Verdot
Oak: 20 months in barrel, 45% American oak
Appellation: Napa Valley