

1998 Cabernet Sauvignon

Ladi's Vineyard

Sonoma County

Deerfield Ranch Winery, in the heart of Sonoma Valley at Kenwood, is a 5000-case winery, specializing in small lots of handmade wines from select vineyards of the California North Coast region. Visitors sample our wines at the *Family Wineries of Sonoma Valley Tasting Room* on Sonoma Highway in Kenwood. Find us on the Web at www.deerfieldranch.com, or call 707 833-5215.

Vineyard: Ladi Danielik (LADI, not to be confused with LODI, the grape growing region) immigrated from Yugoslavia where he grew grapes and made wine. He continues this old world tradition at his vineyard in the foothills east of Santa Rosa where the red volcanic soil and unique microclimate is ideally suited to the Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah that Ladi grows. The Cabernet clone is particularly small berried producing intense color and body in the wine. I think the real reason Ladi's grapes are so good is his daily tending of the vines. He knows and pampers each vine. Ladi's dedication has been rewarded three times by the Sonoma County Harvest Fair (our most prestigious wine celebration and competition) Gold Medal for the Best Vineyard in Sonoma County. Several gold medals are awarded for wine. Only one is given for the best vineyard.

The Wine: The grapes were picked and sorted by hand, crushed, leaving about 25% whole berries. This helps retain fruit flavors in the wine. Fermentation took place in an open-top tank so that the cap could be manually pushed down twice daily over the 12-day primary fermentation. CMY yeast, isolated in Bordeaux, France, helped develop complexity to the wine. The fermentation temperature peak at a cool 80°F which helped keep tannins soft. The wine was aged in 60% new French and American oak barrels (10% American), topped every-other-week and racked 4 times. We used barrels made from two and three year air dried oak so that the oak tannins remain soft and well integrated with the wine. We blended in 10% Ladi Merlot to add nose and length to the front of the palate.

Tasting Notes: The winemaking techniques produced a complex, well structured and full-bodied Cabernet with soft tannins and a long finish. The color is a brilliant and beautifully deep garnet. The nose is full of Merlot violets with overtones of cedar, ripe raspberries and black cherries. The taste lengthens into a symphony of mouth filling Cabernet richness. The tannins are there in adequate quantities to suggest a long life but are still soft and supple. The finish never lets down. It's an elegant wine without any hard edges. The overall character is one of forward, identifiable fruit you expect in a Deerfield wine followed by a wonderful complex layering of many subtle flavors and sensations. It's a good food wine. It will enhance not only red meats but any dish with a full bodied character.

Harvest & Winemaking Data:

Winemaker:	Robert Rex
Harvested:	By hand, October 30, 1998
Brix at Harvest:	22.5 ° Brix
Acid at Harvest:	7.65 g/l as Tartaric
pH (composite):	3.43
Yeast:	CMY (Bordeaux variety)
Fermentation:	In small, open-top fermentors for 11 days, punched 2 times/day
Temp. Fermentation:	80°F
Malo/Lactic Conversion:	100%
Aging:	16 months in 90% French Oak, 10% American Oak, 60% new overall
Fining:	unfined
SO ₂ at Bottling:	11 ppm free
Bottled:	270 cases - March 1, 2000
Alcohol:	13.4%
Released:	June 1, 2000
Awards & Reviews:	2 gold medals, 4 silver medals, scored 90 pts Wine Enthusiast, 2 puffs Vineyard was named Best Vineyard in Sonoma County 4 times by the Sonoma County Harvest Fair

