

2009 Cabernet Sauvignon

Sonoma Valley



**75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Cabernet Franc, 7% Merlot
6% Malbec, 3% Petit Verdot**

Copy from the back label: Winemaking is a combination of art and science, cooking and chemistry. Like a memorable meal, it's about the quality of the ingredients and the interplay of flavors, textures, and technique. Cabernet is the dominant flavor and forms the mid-palate structure and the long finish. Cabernet Franc adds a chocolate like experience at the top of your palate. Merlot give it more nose. Malbec fills in the lower back, like blackberries. Petit Verdot adds a touch of spice. The blend is full bodied yet mellow. We made 800 cases. Learn more at www.cleanwine.info.

The Vineyards: Six Sonoma Valley vineyards, under contract with Deerfield, supplied grapes for this blend. The Cabernet is from four distinct terroirs, an upper mountain slope, a rocky mountain valley, and a steep terraced hillside in the Sonoma Valley AVA, and a small lot is from Knights Valley. This contributed to the complexity of the Cabernet flavors, and structure. The varietals rounding out this Meritage style blend were from two vineyards each. This is more than a blend of varietals. It is a blend of places, distinctive and unique. It is uniquely Sonoma and uniquely Deerfield.

The 2009 Vintage was a challenging one, with a cooler than optimum summer and a damp harvest. Each vineyard took exceptional care and intervention to assure clean, ripe and flavorful fruit. The partnership between winemaker and grower was seldom more important. In such years Deerfield wines shine.

The Winemaking: Each lot was fermented and aged separately. After triple sorting the handpicked grapes, a fermentation protocol, from yeast selection, to temperature control, feeding, oxygenation, and maceration times was implemented for each lot. We age many of our red wines longer in the barrel than any other American winery. Long barrel aging not only softens tannins and integrates flavors into a balanced harmony, it also concentrates the wine, by about 6% per year by evaporation through the barrel. This allowed the 09 reds to achieve richness and depth that shorter barrel aged wines can never attain. The results are worth the effort, the expense and the wait.

Tasting notes: The color is deep, dark and brilliant. The nose is true to Cabernet with a bit of leather, and very little earth. The taste is bold, with long linear strokes from front to back. The tannin is definitively Cabernet typical but without being obtrusive or dominant. All the elements are harmonious and integrated. You have to look for the oak; it is so much a part of the whole experience. The wine is dry yet gentle for a Cab. It has great balance across the pallet, every corner sensitized, no wholes or blanks. The berry flavors are in the center of the palate and lead to a long finish.

At bottling: Alc. 14.6%. pH 3.75, T.A. 6.1g/L R.S. 0.6g/L, Unfined.
Cross flow filtered before bottling, sterile bottled, Velcorin free. Low histamine
SO2 at bottling 20 ppm, at release less than 12 ppm.
Bottled 800 cases, April 4, 2014. Released June 2014.

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Taste the Passion

