

Napa Valley lies on the northern border of San Francisco Bay. This small valley is home to many sub-appellations that classify the unique growing regions found around the area. Vineyards on hillsides and the valley floor receive different amounts of rainfall, experience summer fog in various amounts and are cooled by the breezes that flow throughout the valley in distinctive ways. In 2009 Winemaker Alex Cose's main components included Rutherford, Atlas Peak, St. Helena and Pope Valley. Alex each year walks, tastes and selects from over 50 vineyards throughout the valley to create a classic Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon at an amazing value; one to put up against other Napa Valley offerings at twice the price.

In 2009 Napa Valley experienced a very wet winter and spring followed by a cool summer. The ground was able to soak in the abundant rains and started to rebuild some of the depleted reservoir levels of past droughts. The only heat of the summer occurred in late August and quickly cooled back down for a mild harvest season. Harvest started on time and finished before rains hit in October.

Harvest started mid to late September. Harvest actually happened at such a leisurely pace some winemakers experienced unheard of weekends off to enjoy the good weather. Vineyard workers picked early in the day in order to get the grapes to the winery while they were still cool. After a gentle breaking of the skins, the grapes were fermented in stainless steel for approximately two weeks and then gently pressed. The wine aged for over 16 months in French and American oak before bottling.

The deep crimson color is the first indication of the wine's depth. Our 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon exhibits aromas of blackberries, lingonberries, cassis and a hint of violets. Vanilla and freshly caramelized sugar notes from oak aging balance and frame the fruit flavors. Oak aging additionally adds breadth on the palate. Our 2009 displays a weight and depth unlike previous vintages. It is a direct reflection of the greatness of the vintage. Napa flavors show through with red raspberries and quintessential Oakville dark cherries. The tannins are sandy and fine. As a group of us sit around and discuss this wine, someone describes it as a bit more feminine, another person as perhaps a "metro" wine. Alex reflects that the wine "has no holes" and has "critical length". It is a deep, brooding wine with weight, fruit and style that opens up into a classic Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon.

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NAPA VALLEY
CABERNET SAUVIGNON

VINTAGE 2009



Composition: 76% Cabernet Sauvignon
24% Merlot

Stats: Alc. 13.8%
pH 3.77
TA 5.4