

ST. FRANCIS WINERY & VINEYARDS

2009 CABERNET SAUVIGNON SONOMA COUNTY

STORAGE 80% French & 20% American Oak

AGING 18 Months in barrel

BOTTLING August 2011

ALCOHOL 14.6% by volume

AGING POTENTIAL 5 to 6 years

BLEND PERCENTAGE 84% Cabernet Sauvignon
9% Merlot, remainder is a blend of Malbec,
Petite Verdot & Syrah.

VINTAGE

An ideal growing season with mild summer temperatures, 2009 produced exceptional fruit. After a dry winter and budbreak in early March, heavy rains in May gave soil much needed moisture. After two weeks of warm, sunny days, the weather cooled to below normal temperatures that lasted throughout the summer. With none of the usual heat spikes, the fruit ripened slowly, developing focused flavors and complexity.

WINEMAKING

The grapes in our Sonoma County Cabernet Sauvignon come from our estate vineyards in Sonoma and Russian River valleys, as well as from growers in Sonoma County's other top appellations, including Dry Creek Valley, Alexander Valley and Rockpile. Each carefully selected vineyard contributes distinctive and individual qualities to the finished wine.

All grapes are hand-picked, gently de-stemmed and crushed before cold-soaking for three days to extract optimal color and flavor. The fruit is then inoculated with a variety of yeast strains to build complexity, then fermented in separate lots using a combination of pump overs and delestage to soften tannins. Secondary malolactic fermentation occurs in 80% French and 20% American oak – 15% new.

TASTING NOTES

This Cabernet Sauvignon has rich varietal character and body. The wine's firm structure, generous tannins, and depth of color complement classic aromas and flavors of ripe black currant, cassis, dusty cocoa and saddle leather.