

2009 Estate Élu Napa Valley Red Wine



Winemaker's Notes:

This red Bordeaux varietal blend has deep, vibrant purple hues. Aromas of black currant and boysenberry jam combine with an intriguing toasted vanillin oak and the combination of anise and dark molasses. Flavors follow with dense, centered blackberry, roasted toffee, espresso and dark chocolate. This is a rich and solid wine, of tremendous structure with fine-grained tannins.

Growing Season:

After several dry seasons, January 2009 started in similar fashion. February brought a few storms, but the remainder of the year was short on rain. This was good for vineyard flavors and also served to moderate the yields. After pleasant conditions in the spring, June brought average temperatures while July really turned up the heat for two weeks which was followed by some hot days in August. All of this led to wines with good structure and intensity.

Winemaking:

The fruit was harvested in the cool morning hours, then crushed to tank where fermentation commenced after a brief period of resting on skins. Warm fermentation temperatures were encouraged to achieve the desired color and structure for the wine before an extended maceration time on skins prior to final pressing. The wine was transferred directly to barrel for 28 months of maturation.

Appellation	Napa Valley
Vineyard	Dollarhide Estate Vineyard Rutherford Estate Vineyard
Variety/Blend	66% Cabernet Sauvignon 26% Merlot 5% Petit Verdot 3% Malbec
Oak Maturation	100% French oak (52% new oak), 28 months
pH	3.70
T. Acidity	6.2 g/L
Residual Sugar	<1 g/L
Alcohol	14.8%
Harvest Dates	October 15 – November 1, 2009
Bottling Date	May 16, 2012
Suggested Retail Price	\$65.00
Case Production	1,522 cases