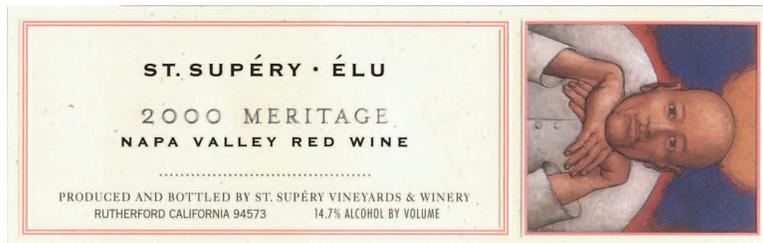


ST. SUPÉRY ÉLU

2000 NAPA VALLEY RED MERITAGE



WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS

Wonderful harmony, intensity and concentration of cherry-vanilla, rose petal and cassis are found in the aroma. On the palate juicy blackberry, red currant and black cherry notes are well balanced and rich without being overpowering. Ripe and supple tannins finish long and lingering. This is a beautiful wine that will only improve over the next few years.

WINEMAKING

The 2000 growing season started with an early budbreak in March. A warm, dry season allowed slow and steady ripening with terrific opportunity for flavor development. A few short summer heat spikes and rain showers raised some eyebrows, but as good fortune so often provides us in California, the season was ripe and generous producing terrific wines.

The fruit for this vintage of Élu was harvested mostly at night or in the early hours of the morning to maintain the delicate fruit flavors. Crushing and pressing occurred in our cellar prior to fermentation. After fermentation was completed, the Bordeaux varietal components were aged in French and American oak barrels for one year. At this midpoint of the aging process, the final blend was created, and the blended wine was returned to barrels for another twelve months.



APPELLATION: *Napa Valley*
BLEND: *80% Cabernet Sauvignon,
14% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc
2% Petit Verdot*
PH: *3.40*
TOTAL ACIDITY: *6.20 g/L*
RESIDUAL SUGAR: *0.08 g/L*
WINE ALCOHOL: *14.9%*