



The Mystery and the Magic

I am attracted to the elusive, the unknowable, and the mystery of wine. There are those who want to control and twist the soul of a wine and regard winemaking as some sort of formula process to be manipulated, explained, and figured out. I choose the opposite path. Beginning with unique vineyard sites and grapes with personality, I rely on experience and intuition to guide my decision-making. The transformation of grapes into wine fills me with awe.

Announcing that the pH is 3.55 and the percentage of new wood is 62% tells you nothing. All the numbers might look perfect, and a wine can still be dull and uninspiring.

With that awe in mind, I approached the production of my new red wine. There is no formula as I select a handful of barrels from my various vineyard lots to assemble a new blend notched up with greater depth and character. There will be a higher percentage of new oak, not because "reserves" should have more oak, but rather the wine selected can support and integrate more new wood. The blend will draw from the classic Bordeaux varieties of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Merlot and will vary from year to year.

I will produce this wine only in outstanding vintages.

2005

Late spring rains delayed flowering of the vines, but the summer months were mild, followed by warm, nearly perfect conditions. The cool late summer was nerve-racking, but the long slow ripening without the typical heat spikes during harvest resulted in long hang time and wonderful flavor and color concentration in the grapes.

Dark ruby, nearly opaque, the 2005 Napa Valley Red exhibits an expansive nose of cassis, black cherry liqueur, sweet oak, and baking spice notes. The core is dark, somewhat brooding, with no single flavor component dominating the other. The wine is supple on entry, with a certain firmness and grip in the middle palate. The acidity, and structure with some edges and angles, may evoke a comparison or two to its Bordeaux counterparts.

450 cases 750ml 40 cases Magnum

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