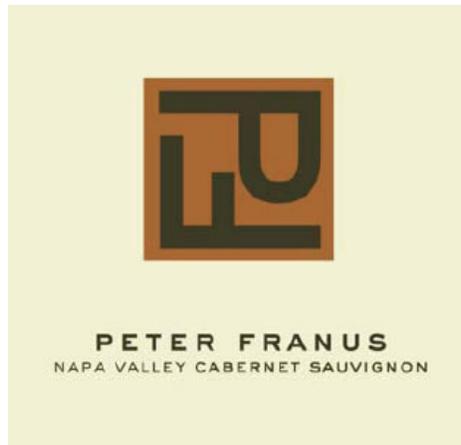


2002 PETER FRANUS NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON



Vineyards: Rancho Chimiles, Hyde Vineyard
Composition: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Harvest Date: September 17 & 18, 2002, October 15, 2002
Fermentation: 14 days, up to 86°
Maceration: 28 days average
Oak aging: 18 months, 100% French Oak 75% new
Bottling Date: April 26, 2004
Production: 1500 cases 750ml

As I compare my tasting notes for my 2001 Cabernet with those of the 2002, they are curiously similar. Harvest dates were a little later in 2002, but the composition of the two vintages is nearly identical. I've tasted the wines side by side numerous times and a common theme surely unites them. But the grand question of course—is the 2002 as good as the 2001, the fastest selling wine I've ever put on the market?

This will be my tenth year of working with Terry Wilson's Rancho Chimiles, located in Wooden Valley on the south east of Napa Valley. I say the same thing every year—meticulous, attention to detail, impeccable, fastidious. That means continuity to me, resulting in fabulous fruit that is dense, concentrated, and complex with layers of flavor. His Cab is among my most tannic, but it's interesting to note that when I taste out of barrel, people will comment on how smooth and approachable it is. That's testimony to the balance and completeness of the wine and the increasing maturity of the vineyard.

Larry Hyde needs no introduction to the wine cognoscenti. His Carneros grapes consistently end up in some of the best wines on the market, and I have had the good fortune to work with his high-tone, juicy, low tannin Cabernet since 1997. The synergy of it and the Wilson is perfect.

And now, the 2002 Cab. A deep ruby hue announces something serious is going on and invites you in to discover the classic cassis, berry, and exotic baking spice aromas. The toasty oak notes entice you. Eventually you'll get to tasting the wine and experience the sweet mouth that definitely scores high on the pleasure scale. Here are some words that came to my mind: seamless, lush, smooth, pure. Lively. Racy. Better than the 2001?

We'll call it a toss-up.