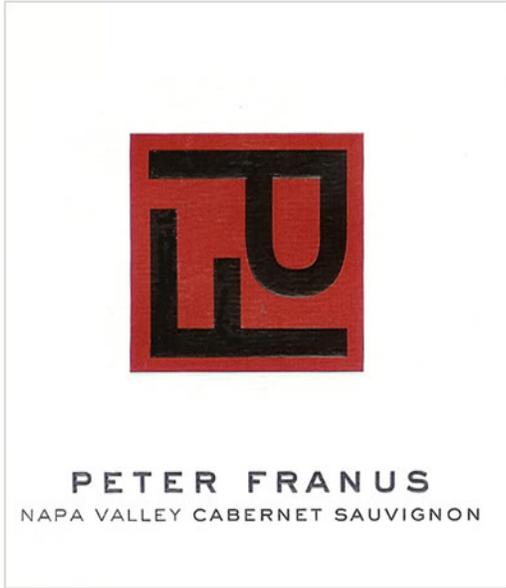


2008 PETER FRANUS NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON



Vineyards: Truchard Vineyard
Rancho Chimiles
Stewart Vineyard

Composition: 93% Cabernet Sauvignon
5% Merlot
2% Cabernet Franc

Harvest Dates: Sept. 8, 12, Oct. 17

Fermentation: 14 days average, up to 82°

Maceration: 21 days average

Oak Aging: 20 months
100% French Oak 65% new

Bottling Date: August 16, 2010

Production: 786 cases

I have produced wine in Napa Valley for over 30 years—mind-boggling sometimes when I think of it! In every year of those three decades, I have made a Cabernet Sauvignon, first at Mount Veeder Winery, and then under my own label since 1992. I have worked with numerous vineyards over the year, and with confidence I can say, I know Cabernet Sauvignon. Don't take your chances with a newcomer; place your bet with Peter Franus.

I have just returned from a week in Montreal, a remarkable city for food and wine. The orientation is definitely toward French/Old World wines. It is one of our very top markets, which says a great deal about our style of wine—elegant, balanced, and focused. That defines the goal I aim for when I make my Cabernet.

Terry Wilson's Rancho Chimiles is in the southeast corner of Napa, just south of Stags Leap, and provides grapes for some very highly regarded wineries in Napa. His Cabernet Sauvignon is typically muscular, dense and concentrated with consistent quality year after year and provides an excellent backbone for our wine.

For those who think flat and foggy Carneros, they are surprised to learn that the northern boundary of the appellation—where Truchard and Stewart Vineyards are located—is quite different. Rolling hills and less fog provides an ideal environment for Bordeaux reds. The Cabernet Sauvignon from this region tends to add softness, acidity, and forward, almost floral notes to the final blend, while the stunning Cabernet Franc adds another structural and aromatic component. The Stewart Merlot is so fabulous year after year that we began bottling some on its own.

Living in Napa Valley, we have become fairly accustomed to predictable un-extreme weather. 2008 was a bit of a wake-up call. Spring frost struck numerous areas diminishing crop levels significantly. Extreme heat in May followed by cool rainy weather affected bloom and berry set as well. Forest fires in June eerily blackened the summer skies. Heat returned—100°+—in late August and early September that quickly catapulted us into harvest.

Our 2008 Cabernet has sneaked up on me, continuing to elevate itself in the wines of the decade. Dark ruby, youthful, and initially brighter than the brooding 2007, forward aromas immediately leap from the glass—lavender, black cherry, hint of coriander, vanilla, white pepper. It offers the perfect weight for a Napa Cabernet with impeccable balance, harmony, appropriate acidity, and focused structure. It should age beautifully. This is a wine with expansive flavors that are seductively palatable.

I am confident this “sleeper” vintage will intrigue, captivate, and satisfy.