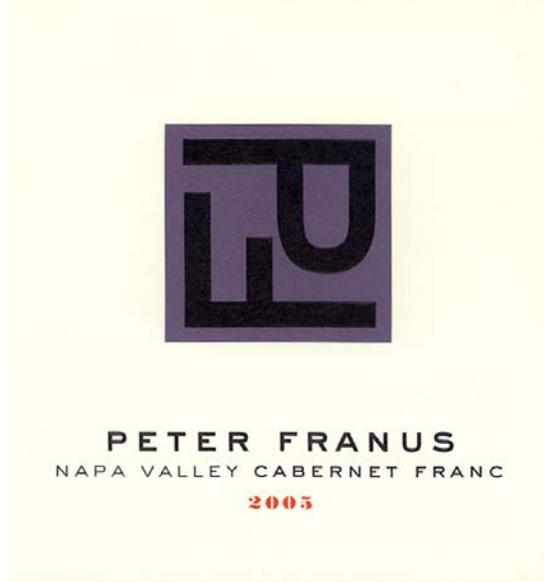


2005 PETER FRANUS NAPA VALLEY CABERNET FRANC



Vineyards: Truchard Vineyard
Composition: 100% Cabernet Franc
Harvest Date: October 19, 2005
Fermentation: 10 days, up to 84°
Maceration: 27 days
Oak aging: 17 months
100% French Oak 60% new
Bottling Date: April 26, 2007
Production: 200 cases 750ml

At the same time I am releasing this Cabernet Franc, I am releasing a Mourvèdre as well. The reason I mention it is that my comments about each have something in common. Both are finicky and when grown in marginal areas result in thin, hard, and difficult wines. On the other hand, find the right location, and something very special emerges. Cabernet Franc typically gets blended with other Bordeaux varieties, and that was my intention here. But as I tasted this wine through its life in the cellar, I knew I had to bottle some on its own.

First the vineyard. When I saw this gentle western exposure hillside vineyard in Carneros, my gut feeling was that it had wonderful potential. My speculation was correct—I've enjoyed two outstanding vintages from the site, and in fact am getting some fabulous Cabernet Sauvignon from the same location as well.

Second, the vineyard owners—Tony and Jo Ann Truchard. I actually worked with them many years ago when I produced my first Cabernet in 1992. I am pleased to be reacquainted with their vineyard again as well as them. I appreciate their warm, generous, easygoing personalities, even in the throes of a hectic harvest. I happen to be one of those who believe those traits somehow express themselves in the grapes and ultimately the wine.

Cabernet Franc is extensively planted in the Loire Valley in France as well as in the right bank vineyards of Bordeaux. Lighter and less tannic than Cabernet Sauvignon, it is more approachable in its youth, a virtue for sure in California. Its great attraction for me is its wild and complex nose of cedar, lavender, and herb. I must admit, I am a perfume person, and am easily taken in by exotic aromas.

As for my 2005. A seductive medium ruby color draws you in. Classic cedar, earth, truffle, and floral notes with an interesting tension between the toasty oak and fruit. Flavors reflect the nose. Lively with good acidity in a warm but firm structure. A long finish with more cedar expressions.

Brown bag this with your friends. It may be the most Bordeaux-like wine in my portfolio.