

2007 PETER FRANUS NAPA VALLEY RED WINE

PETER FRANUS
NAPA VALLEY • RED WINE



Vineyards: Truchard Vineyard
Rancho Chimiles
Stewart Vineyard

Composition: 74% Cabernet Sauvignon
20% Merlot
6% Cabernet Franc

Harvest Dates: Sept. 7, 27 Oct. 11, 18

Fermentation: 10 days average, up to 82°

Maceration: 20 days average

Oak Aging: 18 months
100% French Oak 70% new

Bottling Date: May 6, 2009

Production: 900 cases 6 x 750ml

Cabernet Sauvignon is very much the driving force of wine production in Napa Valley. It performs extremely well and typically commands the highest prices for grapes as well as wine. Because I have been in Napa Valley for 30 years, I can say this—it is a resilient grape and not terribly difficult to grow, and from a winemaking standpoint, not terribly difficult to make. The challenge, however, is to make a wine with personality that distinguishes itself from the pack. When everyone is using similar barrels, similar clones, and similar everything, how do you make that happen?

Enter Merlot and Cabernet Franc. I have the good fortune to work with some extraordinary Merlot and Cabernet Franc, both coming out of Carneros. They perform extremely well on their own, but when blended together with Cabernet Sauvignon, the resulting wine is elevated to a different level. My goal has never been to make wines that knock you over the head. I want to intrigue you with layers, complexity, and nuance. That is the driving force behind my Napa Valley Red Wine. Intuition guides me as I select a handful of barrels that I feel are offering something a little special. The blend will vary from year to year and “Red Wine” frees me from the restraints of calling it Cabernet Sauvignon.

In 2007, a warm spring followed a dry winter, so budbreak came earlier, hinting at an early harvest. However, the relatively cool summer slowed things down and simultaneously allowed wonderful flavor development in the grapes. Crop levels were down, and berries small, also intensifying flavor. A heat spike in late August ramped up the harvest, but then another cool-down occurred, slowing harvest down again. 2007 remains one of the most highly touted vintages of the decade, offering wines that are rich, ripe, and voluptuous—in short, crowd-pleasing wines.

Our 2007 Red is dark ruby in color, nearly opaque. Still very youthful the wine delivers classic aromas of cassis, blackberry, bay, and hint of green olive. Secondary aromas include floral notes—rose petal and lavender—and dried herb—sage and thyme. Sweet toasty oak completes the package. The flavors reflect the nose, and are deep, rich and expansive. Nevertheless, the structure is firm and angular enough to sustain the wine for a decade or more.

Our 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon disappeared quickly—here comes its counterpart!