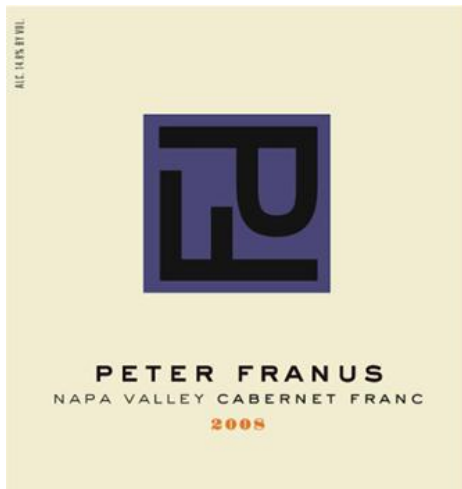


2008 PETER FRANUS NAPA VALLEY CABERNET FRANC



Vineyard:	Truchard Vineyard Carneros
Composition:	100% Cabernet Franc
Harvest Dates:	October 21, 2008
Fermentation:	12 days, up to 82°
Oak aging:	17 months 100% French Oak 50% new
Bottling Date:	August 16, 2010
Production:	50 cases 750ml

Cabernet Franc is a finicky grape. But after all my years of winemaking, I think it is precisely those challenging varieties that have the potential to produce some of the most exciting wines in the marketplace. There is a buzz these days about Cabernet Franc as more people tune into this variety that can display a spectrum of flavors and profiles.

I have typically blended my Cabernet Franc into my other Bordeaux varieties. But after tasting this wine in barrel as it aged in the cellar, I knew that some deserved to be bottled on its own—even if it was a tiny amount. It is not a wine I produce every year.

I firmly believe that Cabernet Franc and Merlot need the coolest parts of Napa Valley to capture the aromatics and varietal characteristics that define these varieties. Northern Carneros is perfect, and even though the risks are high in vintages that are late-ripening, they are worth it.

Truchard Vineyards. Tony and Jo Ann Truchard are not only innovators and veterans of Napa Valley, they are some of the nicest in the business even in the throes of a hectic harvest. I happen to believe those traits somehow ultimately express themselves in the grapes and 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 am easily taken in by its exotic aromas.

As for our 2008. A seductive dark ruby color draws you. A beautiful mélange of perfumed aromas entice—rose petal, lavender, cherry, cardamom, and roasted coffee notes. The mouth offers a soft entry with a lush textural impression, but it is quickly held in check by a finish with lively acidity and firmness. This complex and elegant wine will definitely reward with age.

Because of its Bordeaux-like attributes, is it no wonder that this wine is always a favorite of our French visitors?