



2003

MEANDER Cabernet Sauvignon
Napa Valley

TECHNICAL DATA

VARIETAL:
100% Cabernet
Sauvignon

VINEYARDS:
50% Morisoli Vineyards
Rutherford
50% Lewelling Vineyards
St. Helena

Both of these vineyards have been family farmed for generations and are prized by many of Napa's most respected winemakers.

BARREL PROGRAM:
100% French Oak
65% New
(Sylvain, Seguin Moreau
and Vicard)

HARVEST:
Sept. 25 & Oct. 6, 2003

BOTTLING:
May 28, 2005
300 cases produced

ANALYSIS:
TA: 5.8 g/L
PH: 3.80
ALC: 14.8%

PHILOSOPHY

My love affair with Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon started in the late 1980s when I began my winemaking career at Joseph Phelps Vineyards. It was there that I cut my teeth on the king of grapes and became intimate with some of Napa Valley's finest sites. In 2000 I decided it was time to fashion my own wine from vineyards that I believed offered superior aromatics, flavors, textures and character. I named this new baby Meander, not just as a play on words, but also as a combination of Mitchell and Andrew, the names of my two sons.

~ Amy Aiken, Winemaker/Proprietor

WINEMAKING

Early morning harvest ensures cool fruit at the sorting table where clusters are hand sorted followed by destemming and gentle crushing. Delivered to tanks, the grapes are then cold soaked for five days prior to inoculation for fermentation. Daily punchdowns are supplemented with pumpovers during fermentation to extract maximum flavor and color. The wine is gently pressed and barreled down for malolactic fermentation. Aged in 100% French Oak, 65% of which is new, for 19 months. Primary Coopers are Sylvain, Seguin Moreau and Vicard.

TASTING NOTES

Deep ruby in color and aromas of black raspberry, currant and intense cocoa introduce a mouth-filling explosion of plum, licorice and black cherries. With a supple velvety finish, the wine is approachable upon release, and continues to gain complexity with bottle age.

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