



VENGE 2008 FAMILY RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY

I sure was excited with the 2007 Venge Reserve and I think 2008 is singing a very similar tune. This wine exhibits a dark ruby color with huge, dense fruit fuming from the glass. Aroma Layers of ripe blueberry, crème de cassis, earth, oak vanillin, and dark chocolate dust give way to a palate full of plum, black currants and youthful tannin. Entering very ripe, this wine possesses an authoritative finish that lasts minutes on the palate. Just like its brother, the 2007, this Cabernet is certainly cellar worthy for the next 15 to 20+ years.



100% Estate Produced and Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon

IN THE VINEYARD

Harvest took place very late on November 1st. The cane-pruned vines are carefully hand harvested by our own family from our Estate Grown vineyard in Oakville. The '08 vintage was a bit of a challenge with Spring frosts. Thin skinned and tight cluster varieties were susceptible to damage by this weather but our Cabernet showed little to no adverse affect other than a natural thinning of the yields. Yields in 2008 below average. Now in their 20th year, we continue to “dry farm” these vines by not allowing them any applied summer irrigation. Their roots must find water on their own and struggle in the final months of summer and early fall leading to a complexity and depth of flavor often unequaled in irrigated vineyards.

IN THE CELLAR

The fruit was destemmed into small stainless steel fermentors and time on skins lasted 27 days. The fruit was then lightly pressed, keeping “free run” and “press” fractions separate and aged in 100% new French Oak barrels. While we do add yeast to finish primary fermentation, we allow the indigenous malolactic bacteria of our cave to complete the secondary fermentation.

275 Cases Produced

“An absolute joy and triumph. Just superb, showcasing the best of Oakville. Perfect tannins, as pure as velvet and sweet, and perfect oak, too, with beautifully applied char and wood spice. That the oak is 100% new is in keeping with the wine’s volumetrics. The wine’s flavors are a profound, heady expression of blackberries, blueberries, cassis and dark, barely sweetened chocolate. Just spectacular, a real achievement by any world class standard. Production was a scant.”

99 POINTS

Robert M. Parker, Jr.
Wine Advocate