



VENGE 2009 FAMILY RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY

2009 is the first vintage of Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon using the very best lots from both our Oakville Estate and Calistoga Estate vineyards. The decision came with time in barrel and the realization that we had many outstanding components from each vineyard that warranted the “Reserve” designation. The result is the most compelling Family Reserve Cabernet we have ever produced. The 2009 displays rich and generous fruit. It is drinking with silk and sophistication. Ripe berry, vanillin, cocoa and toasty oak fill the glass. The aromas come into the nose and expand with the inhale. The palate is very supple and fleshy in nature. Full black cherry and mocha flavors fill for a full body and fat center. The tannins carefully take the finish into a full 30 seconds or longer. With proper ageing this wine should survive to 2025 and even further.

IN THE VINEYARD

The vintage was a difficult one due to wet weather and that certainly set the most resilient vineyards apart from the rest. The rains arrived on October 12th in 2009 and some of the fruit for the Reserve had to hang through the rain to gain a touch more ripeness. This reads far easier than it actually is. Grapes for this wine is sourced from our Oakville Estate and Calistoga Estate vineyards appellation where close spacing and dry farming are used. The fruit is carefully handpicked in the cool, early hours of the morning and brought to the winery as cold as possible where then it is entirely hand sorted prior to going to fermenters via gravity.

IN THE CELLAR

The fruit was destemmed into small stainless steel tank fermenters and open top barriques. Time on skins lasted 14 to 20 days. The fruit was then lightly pressed, keeping “free run” and “press” fractions separate, and then aged in 100% new, tight grained French Oak barrels for a lengthy 27 months. We employ 100% native yeast and malolactic fermentations. The gentle use of gravity flow in winemaking is used entirely throughout the making of this and every Venge wine. This Cabernet Sauvignon is neither filtered nor fined.

350 Cases Produced

“The 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Family Reserve fleshes out in all directions with an exciting tapestry of sweet tobacco, incense, dried Provencal herbs, espresso, black cherries and plums. This is a decidedly full-bodied intense wine from Venge. The tannins are quite firm, suggesting the wine needs time to soften, but regardless, the power and concentration are impressive.”

93 POINTS
Antonio Galloni
Wine Advocate



92% Cabernet Sauvignon (45% Calistoga Estate, 55% Oakville Estate)
8% Merlot, Oakville Estate Vineyard
Produced and Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon