

2007 Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville Estate, Napa Valley

2007 was an outstanding vintage with the vineyard ripening perfectly. This voluminous wine is ripe with heady layers of black cherry, blackberry, espresso bean and our signature cedar box nose. The palate is marked by sweet, velvety tannins and a refined, almost mountain fruit structure followed by a bold and persistent finish. There is a ripe and rich sophistication to the wine that while drinking young now will continue to improve for several years to come. This Cabernet is certainly cellar worthy for the next 12-15 years.

In The Vineyard

Harvest took place very late on November 2nd. The cane-pruned vines are carefully hand harvested by our family from our Estate Grown vineyard in Oakville. The '07 vintage was a dream for farming with wonderful growing conditions from spring to fall. Yields in 2007 were in the 3.5 ton per acre category. Now in their 19th 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. The philosophy here is simple; make the vines struggle, leading to optimal vine health and a plant that is able to ward off diseases and soil borne pests. The fruit will be entirely expressive of the terroir from which it is grown.

In The Cellar

The fruit was destemmed into small stainless steel tank fermentors and time on skins lasted 20 days. The fruit was then lightly pressed, keeping free run and press fractions separate, then aged in 100% new, tight grained French Oak barrels for a lengthy 27 months. While we do add yeast to aid in alcoholic fermentation, we allowed the indigenous malolactic bacteria to complete a slow secondary fermentation.

Bottling Data

97% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Merlot
14.6% Alcohol, 0.53 g/100mL Titratable Acidity, 3.91 pH.
Bottled on December 15th, 2009, unfined and unfiltered.
150 Six-Bottle Cases Produced
Suggested Retail—\$125 per bottle

