

CLOS DU VAL

2008 CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY

APPELLATION:	Napa Valley
COMPOSITION:	84% Cabernet Sauvignon 7% Merlot 6% Cabernet Franc 3% Petit Verdot
FERMENTATION:	Traditional stainless steel tanks with 2 pumpovers daily
AGING:	18 months in French oak barrels, 25% new barrels
ACID:	5.9 g/L pH: 3.65
ALCOHOL:	13.5%
SOIL TYPE:	gravelly clay loams
AGE OF VINES:	10-27 years
HARVESTED:	September 14 - October 16, 2008
BOTTLING:	July 2010
PRODUCTION:	30,000 cases produced

WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS

Characteristic of Clos du Val's world-class style, the 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon continues the winery's tradition of producing truly elegant wines of balance and complexity. Its opulent, brooding purple hue is accentuated with aromas of ripe black and purple fruit, black pepper and subtle hints of toast. The palate displays a seamless integration of intense flavors that include chocolate, toffee and blackberry. The wine has a rich yet powerful mouthfeel marked by focused, silky tannins and a long, lingering finish. Expect this Cabernet Sauvignon to age gracefully for an additional 5-10 years.

HARVEST

2008 will go down in history as a very strange year for grape growers. Spring was mild and so dry that many growers experienced water shortages. When bud break began in early March, everything seemed fairly normal until the evening frosts began in late April, igniting what turned out to be the most severe frost season in over 30 years.

Ten days of evening temperatures hovering at 25°F were immediately followed by a 105°F heat wave. These severe temperature swings, coupled with 30 mph winds, reaped havoc on most Napa Valley vineyards. Our Stags Leap District vineyards were hit particularly hard resulting in the loss of nearly half of our crop. The remaining fruit, however, was stellar if not plentiful, as exemplified by this exceptional wine.

HISTORY

Clos du Val, French for "small vineyard estate of a small valley," was founded in 1972 in the now legendary Stags Leap District by American entrepreneur John Goelet and French winemaker Bernard Portet. After a worldwide search to purchase a vineyard property from which to craft world-class wines, 130 acres in Stags Leap and 180 acres in Carneros were chosen, solidifying Clos du Val's iconic stature and formidable place in Napa Valley history.

