

## The Making of our 1989 TRUCHARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

The Truchard Vineyard, the northernmost vineyard in Napa Carneros, lies on steep hills of clay loam, underlaid by fractured blue shale and occasional sandstone. The fruit for this Cabernet Sauvignon, including Cabernet Franc, is dark in color, with deep, full flavors, tending toward black fruits like plum and blueberry, with broadly-textured tannins.

The 1989 growing season was fine until a rain storm hit on September 16. Fortunately, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc grow in open, loose clusters, which dried out well and ripened from three to four weeks after the rain. In fact, the vines seemed to enjoy the extra drink, and produced full flavors and sugars with no rot of any sort. Our controlled fermentation peaked at 88 degrees (early, for color and tannin extraction), then finished at 78 degrees (to preserve fruitiness).

After fermentation, the wine opened slowly, but steadily married with the French oak, one third of which was new. We used no fining agents for softening or clarification, since the wine had soft, broad tannins from the start. We blended 13% Cabernet Franc into the Cabernet Sauvignon, which has added a spiciness and roundness to the middle palate.

One of the results of the '89 growing season is that the wines are round, fruity, and quite accessible early in their lives; our Cabernet fits that description, while having the great intensity of color and rich texture that mark our vineyard in all years. The aromas, after one year of bottle aging, remind us of ripe plums and cassis (marks of a truly ripe Napa Valley Cabernet), plus the cedar and earth so typical of barrel-aged Cabernet Sauvignon.

This is the first release of Cabernet Sauvignon under our own *Truchard* label. And we think you will agree that it takes further the tradition established by other wineries who have used our Cabernet fruit--including Carneros Creek, Heitz, Frog's Leap, Conn Creek, Mondavi, Shafer, Cafaro, and Raymond. The 1989 vintage may not have produced a lot of 20-year monster wines, but clearly it offers forward, rich fruit, and a charming texture that invites early enjoyment.