

# TRUCHARD VINEYARDS



## 1998 Cabernet Franc

- Vintage:** 1998 was a challenging year in the vineyards. El Niño produced cold and wet springtime conditions, which affected berry set and reduced yields. Continued cool weather throughout the growing season delayed ripening and caused a late harvest. However, the extremely long "hang time" resulted in wines with complex aromas, intense flavors, and excellent acidity.
- Vineyard:** The Truchard Estate Vineyard is located in the Carneros region of the Napa Valley. It is 270 acres of hills and valleys, which contain a variety of soils: clay, shale, sandstone, limestone, volcanic ash and rock. The combination of terrain, geology, and marine-moderated temperatures, provides "meso-climates" well suited for wine-growing. Cabernet Franc is planted in several different sites -on steep, southwest-facing hillsides. The vines range from 11 to 16 years old, and produce wines that are deep in color, dominated by lush flavors of plum, berry, and spice. Cabernet Sauvignon which grows on adjacent blocks is blended in to provide firmness, complexity, and added age ability.
- Harvest:** October 31 & November 5 - 24.3° Brix - 3.52 pH - 5.9 g/l TA
- Winemaking:** All of the fruit was gently destemmed and crushed, then inoculated with Pasteur Red yeast. Each fermentation was pumped-over twice daily, with the temperature peaking at 88° F. The lots were pressed after 14 days of maceration. The wine was aged for 20 months in French oak barrels (40% new). Rackings occurred every 4 months until bottling in August of 2000. This wine is 88% Cabernet Franc and 12% Cabernet Sauvignon. It is drinkable upon release, but will reward careful cellaring for the next 7-10 years.
- Wine Analysis:** 14.2% alcohol - 3.61 pH - 5.5 g/l TA
- Tasting Notes :** Vibrant aromas of plum, black cherry, and floral blueberry; combined with hints of cedar, vanilla, and sweet tobacco. The mouth is rich: ripe cherry, red currants, and plum jam; followed by a touch of cracked black pepper. Fine-grained tannins provide a velvety texture and a lingering finish of fruit and spice.
- Release date:** August 1, 2001
- Cases Produced:** 144
- Bottle Price:** \$32.00

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