

TRUCHARD VINEYARDS



1998 Cabernet Sauvignon

- 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 "micro-climates" well suited for wine-growing. Cabernet Sauvignon is planted in several different sites - on steep, southwest-facing hillsides. The vines range from 9 to 24 years old, and produce wines that are deep in color, dominated by lush flavors of plum, berry, and spice. Cabernet Franc, grown in the "Highlands" area of the vineyard, is blended in to provide additional softness, structure, and complexity.
- Harvest:** October 31 - November 4 • 24.3 °Brix • 3.53 pH • 6.4 g/l TA
- Winemaking:** All of the fruit was gently destemmed and crushed, then inoculated with Pasteur Red yeast. Fermentations were pumped-over twice daily, with the temperature peaking at 88° F. Maceration time varied from 14 to 30 days, depending on wine lot. The wine was aged for 20 months in French oak barrels (45% new). Rackings occurred every 4 months until bottling in August of 2000. The final blend is 88% Cabernet Sauvignon and 12% Cabernet Franc. This wine is very approachable right now, but will improve and become more complex over the next 10 years.
- Wine Analysis:** 14.2 % alcohol • 3.63 pH • 5.8 g/l TA
- Tasting Notes:** Rich aromas of plum, red currant, and floral blueberry; with notes of vanilla, cedar, and mint. The mouth is smooth and rich: layered with ripe cherry, raspberry and plum jam. Dusty tannins lift the palate and provide a lingering finish of red fruit and spice.
- Release date:** May 1, 2001
Cases Produced: 2824 cases
Bottle Price: \$38.00

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