

ARAUJO ESTATE WINES 2002 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

WINEGROWING INFORMATION

After a winter of normal rainfall that ended early in spring, the 2002 growing season began with warm, dry conditions that produced a light crop of small-berried fruit. Extra clusters were thinned at green harvest in June, and then a mild summer ensued, marked by ideal conditions of warm days, and cool, even cold nights. At the end of August and into September, temperatures rose over the century mark, but organic and Biodynamic® farming practices prepared the vines to withstand the heat in superb condition. After pre-sorting the fruit in the field, our crew began selective harvesting of young grapes on September 11, while older blocks continued to develop their intense flavors, concentrated by the heat. The last cabernet was picked during the cool night hours of September 23 - 25 and delivered to the winery at complete phenolic ripeness. The fruit was sorted, de-stemmed, and cold-soaked, undergoing native yeast fermentations and long macerations in small stainless steel tanks. The wine was aged in 100% new French oak barrels for an extended period of 25 months and bottled in November 2004.

TASTING NOTES

Produced by a fine vintage, distinctive vineyard terroir and painstaking selection in the vineyard, winery and blending sessions, this exceptionally dense and highly complex wine exudes opulent aromas of black currant, crushed violets, nutmeg and clove. On the palate, rich flavors of crème de cassis, black fruits, roasted chestnuts and dark chocolate are nuanced with mineral, tobacco and anise notes in the lingering finish. Notes winemaker Francoise Peschon: *This noble wine displays its great pedigree and authenticity. It is whole and complete; its power and elegance are a perfect expression of the Eisele Vineyard.*

GRAPE SOURCE

96% Cabernet Sauvignon Eisele Vineyard 3% Cabernet Franc Eisele Vineyard 1% Petit Verdot Eisele Vineyard Napa Valley

PRODUCTION & TECHNICAL DATA

Alcohol: 14.6% Total Acid: 0.57 pH: 3.85 Production: 1630 cases Release date: October 1, 2005

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